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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1943 No. 39

Mellow Light of Victory

MR. CHURCHILL

At Washington the entire expanse of the world war on which the mellow light of victory now begins to play was laid open to the British and American leaders. We have shown that we can work together. We have shown that we can face disaster. We have still to show that we can keep ourselves at the height and level of the successful events and be worthy of good fortune. Perhaps that may be the hardest task of all. It would not be right, of course, for me to attempt to give even in outline an account of the decisions which we have reached. All I can say is that we have done our best. Complete agreement about forward steps has been reached between the two Governments. There have been no sort of differences such as occurred in the last war—inevitable on account of the forces at work—between politicians and military men. I shall make no predictions as to what will happen in the future, still less in the near future. All I can say is that Anglo-American policy, strategy and economy were brought into full focus in those 15 days' talks at Washington

Mr. CHURCHILL in Commons, on 8th June

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IT WAS A CRAZY NIGHT, WASN'T IT?

—Well, how did you like
Two Pianos in the Ring?
How was the Newsboy's Song?
Huggins' Family!—they'd all gone nuts!

—And what were **YOUR** answers—before the gong went!—to these quizzes?

—What are dog days?

—What are the horse latitudes?

—What is the world's largest diamond?

—What is the length of the Great Wall of China?

Were you puzzled or amused?

WHATEVER IT WAS, TUNE IN

Next Wednesday Night at Ten to Madras, or Trichy

Registered No. M-4345

Madras War Review

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RUNNING COMMENTARY

Hammering of Hitler's Island Bases In the Mediterranean. The outer ring of Hitler's defences on the Southern Front of his so-called *Festung Europa* is being severely hammered during the last few days by the Royal Air Force. Sardinia, Sicily and Pantelleria are now bearing the whole weight of the Allied strategical air force against Italy in the Mediterranean. Pantelleria is about 40 miles from Cape Bon in Tunisia and the same distance from Sicily. It is a strategic position which can be utilized by the enemy to harrass the sea communications of the Allies. Therefore, the first step towards regaining the complete control of the Central Mediterranean narrows is the neutralization of this island and of Sicily. Pantelleria is 45 square miles in area. It was fortified in 1937 by Mussolini. Next year the construction of an aerodrome, "works quarters" and "harbour works" was officially mentioned. Later, additional defences were constructed in the steep cliffs of the island. There are pens to shelter submarines which operate against Allied ships. It would thus be seen that the neutralization of Pantelleria would be a valuable strategic gain.

Sicily which is the southern air headquarters of the Axis has an area of 9,860 square miles. After the entry of Italy into the war, more air fields have been constructed and enlarged in this island, which is the main base of the *Luftwaffe's* offensive against Malta during the North African campaign.

Then there is Sardinia which acquired a fresh strategic importance, when the Allied land offensives from the east and west in North Africa progressed from success to success. Sardinia's southern air base is Cagliari and its distance from Tunis is only 160 miles. Air fields, bases, ports, harbours, communications and power plants in all these outer defences of the Axis in the south are receiving terrific pounding by the Royal Air Force heavy bombers.

* * * * *

The Softening Process and the Second Front. Apart from these the *Luftwaffe* and the *Regia Aeronautica* have suffered very severe losses. Unless large numbers of aircraft and pilots are transferred to other theatres of war, the Axis cannot avoid the greatest and most sustained air bombardment of this war on the southern front. The Allied air offensive in this area is mainly a process of softening with a view to the neutralization of the Axis bases and the pushing back of the Axis air forces to the Italian main land.

The special attention given to these island bases should not be taken to mean that there is an obvious connexion between the places bombed and the places selected for the Second Front. It may be pointed out that the occupation of Sicily and Sardinia are not essential for an attack on the Italian main land. If these islands are neutralized by overwhelming air and sea power while the invasion of Italy is taking place, they would automatically fall into Allied hands. Further, there are indications that naval blockade is beginning to grip the islands as Italian shipping is being successfully attacked by British submarines around these coasts. Direct blows may be aimed against the heart of Italy across the Tyrhennian Sea and also up the Adriatic.

In the Third Year of War—1941

The brute and blackguard storm; before their trampling feet
 The driven peoples quail, the armies crack and fall.
The nerveless necks are bent, and freedom's windingsheet
 About her stricken body laid proclaims to all
The triumph of the howling beast, humanity's defeat.

But in the western seas, where ocean breakers roar
 Against the crags and cliffs, the ancient walls of stone,
An island people girds, as it has girt before,
 Its armour on its back, ready to fight alone,
Ready to meet the rolling tide and break it on the shore.

Overt its cloudy skies it throws a warrior swarm
 To ride the bridge of air and pluck from monstrous height
A pride, a plume of fame, a shelter from the storm.
 Across its narrow seas it watches day and night
And patiently moulds peaceful power to new and deadly form.

O staunch great-hearted isle! Hard-hit but unafraid
 Your men and women too to grievous tasks impressed
See Death in panoply of shrieking steel arrayed:
 But like a bride to wed, with flowers at her breast,
They go to meet him: Death before that sacrifice is stayed.

And England's armies go, not now without allies
 To west and east and south, to man the weakened walls.
To south and east and west the fleet of England plies
 To join strong hand with hand wherever danger calls
On wings that fly for England, Right and Freedom sweep the skies.

—*R.G.*

Italy, a German Liability—What will Hitler do? What will HITLER do in the event of an invasion of Italy? As things stand at present, there are no indications of German divisions being sent to help Italy, which, with her heavy demands on German coal and other raw materials, is considered to be a German liability. Will HITLER decide to abandon his ally and leave her to shift for herself? If he does he will be conserving his manpower and resources. But by so doing, he will be dealing a staggering blow to the German prestige in the occupied countries, and there will also be the further difficulty of replacing the 10 to 12 Italian divisions which have

" Successful landings in Attu and unprecedented aerial bombardment were facilitated by the supplies which have gone up the Alaska Highway "—Photo shows a view of the Alaska Highway under construction last year.

been doing police duty for him in the Balkan Peninsula. One thing seems to be certain. The preliminaries to the great offensive of the Allies are well on their way, and it is merely a question of time when the Second Front will be launched with all the forces and resources at the command of the Allies. The more the Allies succeed, the more desparate Axis resistance will be. But the initiative is with the Allies and it cannot be wrested from them, however much the Axis may try.

* * * * *

Capture of Attu upsets Tokyo propagandists. The capture of the island of Attu, which is at the extreme western tip of the Aleutians chain, has upset Tokyo radio propaganda. Attu was bombarded by American warships on February 20, 1943. Within three months, that is, on May 12 to be exact, American assault troops landed on the island. Tokyo admitted on May 30th that its Attu garrison had been overwhelmed. Within five days of the American landing, Japanese propagandists began indulging in mournful apologies. They said it was impossible to prevent the seaborne invasion of the Americans, because the island was 70 miles long and 30 miles wide. But the fact is that it is only 35 miles long and 18 miles wide. A Tokyo broadcast in German on May 19th threw the blame on the fog. " The notorious Aleutian fog ", it said, " set in one month earlier than usual. Protected by this fog American troops landed........." In a statement broadcast a day earlier (May 18), Major-General YAHAGI pointed out that the landing of the American troops was made under the protection of heavy naval units. He said :

" It is clear that the gun-power of the American men-o'-war who are supporting the invasion troops with their incessant fire and the continuous attacks of American carrier-borne aircraft, is of great advantage to the American units on land. The Japanese have nothing to make up for this American advantage."

The Japanese Major-General also referred to " American preponderance of material, especially artillery and aircraft." Another theme developed by Tokyo was the superiority of American communications. On May 22, Major-General YAHAGI made a further admission. " It is believed ", he said, " that the enemy troops consist of one division, tanks and heavy guns."

We have referred to the Tokyo broadcasts on Attu to show that this excuse-making policy is a new departure in Japanese propaganda. It may be recalled that last year on June 6, Berlin Radio quoted the following passage from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* :

" Whenever the Japanese Navy decides to carry out operations, distance is considered as a factor of minor importance."

More than a fortnight afterwards (June 25), a Tokyo news bulletin in Burmese said :

" In connexion with the Japanese capture of the Aleutians, a military authority has declared that the war in the Pacific, where the Japanese have been entirely victorious, has exposed the complete uselessness of the U.S. Navy."

Six weeks after, on August 10, 1942, a Tokyo broadcast in English declared :

" The United States' dream of recapturing Attu and Kiska islands has been miserably shattered in the face of the mighty Japanese navy."

* * * * *

American Air and Naval Superiority Tokyo's Admission. It is significant that Tokyo is now forced to make frank admissions that the Americans enjoy aerial and naval superiority somewhat near well-established Japanese naval and air bases in the Kurile Islands.

The island of Attu is roughly equidistant (about 800 miles) from the U.S. naval base of Dutch Harbour and the Japanese naval base of Paramushiro (Kurile Islands). The Japanese first occupied Attu in June 1942. Three months afterwards, that is, towards the end of September 1942, it was heavily bombed. On October 3rd, the Americans occupied the Andrean of islands and this led to the voluntary Japanese evacuation of Attu a week afterwards (October 10, 1942). Soon after, there was an intensified aerial bombardment of Kiska, which the Japanese had occupied at the same time as Attu. This reopened the eyes of the Japanese to the importance of the island, and the prospect of Kiska being neutralized made them change their minds and reoccupy Attu on December 5, 1942. The events that led to the American landings in 1943 have already been referred to above in brief.

It is of interest to examine the strategic background of the capture of Attu by the Allies. The Japanese have referred to the superiority of American communications. Though this has been put forward as an excuse for their not retaining Attu, the statement itself is not without foundation. The Japanese supply ships, it may be pointed out, have to sail across a long stretch of open ocean. For instance, the distance between Yokohama and Attu is roughly 1,700 miles. But American ships can move along this island chain protected by land-based fighter aircraft, when visibility is good, and by fog when it is bad.

(*Continued on page* 6)

THE UNITED NATIONS

FROM A CONFERENCE — THROUGH A CHARTER — TO A CONFEDERATION

ON Monday next, June 14, the world will celebrate the United Nations' Day—a day of thanks giving for the greatest and grandest combination of the forces working for freedom and progress. A year ago, President Roosevelt referred to his as "that great alliance dedicated to the defeat of our foes and to the establishment of a true peace based on the freedom of man". He pointed out that belief in the Four Freedom of common humanity was the crucial difference between the United Nations and their enemies. "In it", said the President of the United States of America, "lies the absolute unity of our alliance, opposed to the oneness of the evil we hate. Here is our strength, the source and promise of victory. We, of the United Nations, know that our faith cannot be broken by any man or any force."

The London Conference

IT is of some interest to trace roughly the stages through which this concept of the United Nations has passed within a short time. The conference of Allied Governments in London on June 5, 1941, may be stated to mark the first stage. It consisted of representatives of the Governments of Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia and representatives of General de Gaulle, Leader of the Free Frenchmen. The conference resolved that they would continue the struggle against German or Italian aggression until victory was won and would mutually assist each other in their struggle to the utmost of their respective capacities. It declared that there could be no settlement, peace and prosperity so long as free peoples were coerced by violence into submission to domination by Germany or her associates, or live under the threat of such coercion. Referring to post-war relations, the conference resolved that "the only true basis of enduring peace is the willing co-operation of free peoples in a world in which, relieved of the menace of aggression, all may enjoy economic and social security and that it is their intention to work together and with other free peoples, both in war and in peace, to this end."

The Atlantic Charter

THE second stage was the historic and momentous declaration of August 1941, popularly known as the Atlantic Charter. It was a joint declaration of the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. It made known certain common principles in the national policies of both the countries, on which their hopes for a better future for the world were based. Those principles are worth reiteration. The eight points on which Britain and America drew up a charter to which all freedom-loving nations have subscribed are as follows :—

(1) their countries seek no aggrandisement, territorial or other ; (2) they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned ; (3) they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of Government under which they will live ; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them ; (4) they will endeavour, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access on equal terms to trade and to the raw materials of the world, which are needed for their economic prosperity ; (5) they desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field, with the object of securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security ; (6) after the final destruction of Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries and which will afford assurance that all men in all lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want ; (7) such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance ; (8) they believe that all nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed, nations which threaten or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe pending the establishment of a wide and permanent system of general security, that disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten, for peace-loving peoples, the crushing burden of armament.

A Galaxy of Militant Peoples

OTHER nations whose representatives had met in London two months earlier accepted this eight-point charter and proclaimed "their adherence to the common principles of policy set forth in the declartion and their intention to co-operate with the best of their ability in giving effect to them". This marked the third stage. Further additions of freedom-loving nations have subsequently taken place, and the United Nations now stand out as a galaxy of militant peoples ranged on the side of freedom—"the massed and angered forces of common humanity", as President Roosevelt called them in his Flag Day appeal last year. He said,

"It is fitting that on our traditional Flag Day, we honour not only our own colours, but also the flags of those who have, with us, signed declarations by the United Nations paying homage to those nations awaiting liberation from the tyranny we all oppose, to those whose lands have escaped the scars of battle, to those who have long been heroically fighting the blaze and havoc of war".

TO-DAY these nations of Europe are awaiting liberation from tyranny with greater hopes, and greater expectation of realisation of such hopes, than before, for the United Nations are on the threshold of a mighty all-ont attack on the Axis. Referring to this Mr. Churchill said in a statement to the House of Commons on Tuesday

(June 8) "It is evident that amphibious operations of peculiar complexity and hazard are approaching". He added "Brighter and more solid prospects lie before us". Complete agreement was reached in Washington about the forward steps, and Anglo-American policy, strategy and economy were brought into full focus as regards the common objective.

The Next Move

THE eyes of the whole world are fixed on the next move of the United Nations. The Axis powers are left guessing what the invasion plans of the United Nations are. The German News Agency's Military Correspondent, discussing the possibilities of the invasion, says that the Anglo-American attempt to set up a Second Front on the periphery of Europe, or a large-scale summer offensive by the Russians, or a combination of both, is expected by the Germans, who, we hope, must be viewing the achievement of French unity at Algiers with further grave misgivings. There have been definite indications in the occupied countries that when an Allied invasion takes place the oppressed peoples of Europe will make an attempt to revolt against the Axis domination in various places.

WITHIN a short time, perhaps in a much shorter time than many people think, a large-scale invasion of Europe will be launched. It will represent the strength, power and determination of the United Nations, which have grown from a Conference, through a Charter, to a Confederation of world freedom. A hard task lies before this League of Nations, which is backed by the armed might of the defenders of liberty all the world over, but of its ultimate outcome there is no doubt whatever.

THE UNITED NATIONS

The following is a full list of the thirty-six United Nations :—

The United States of America, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Poland, Republic of Mexico, Union of South Africa, Yugoslavia, Chili, Bolivia, Free France, Ethiopia, Iraq, Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela and Uruguay.

AXIS AND GAS: PRESIDENT'S WARNING

As President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of the American armed forces, I want to make clear beyond all doubt to any of our enemies contemplating resort to such desperate and barbarous methods that, acts of this nature committed against any one of the United Nations will be regarded as having been committed against the United States itself and will be treated accordingly. We promise to any perpetrators of such crimes full and swift retaliation in kind and I feel obliged now to warn the Axis armies and Axis peoples in Europe and in Asia that the terrible consequences of any use of these inhuman methods on their part will be brought down swiftly and surely upon their own heads. Any use of gas by any Axis powers, therefore, will immediately be followed by the fullest possible retaliation upon munitions centres, seaports and other military objectives throughout the whole extent of the territory of such Axis country".

—PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, *in a statement in Washington on June 8.*

RUNNING COMMENTARY—*Continued from page 4*

Continued from page 4

Supply to Aleutians—Role played by Alaska Highway. The bulk supply to the American forces in the Aleutians has been, it is of interest to note, SPEEDED UP THE Alaska Highway, which is one of the most remarkable road-building achievements of modern times. The unprecedented ærial bombardment of Kiska in recent weeks and the successful landings in the Attu island have been largely facilitated by the supplies which have gone up this Highway. It may be recalled that work on this Highway was begun in March 1942. 10,000 soldiers and 6,000 civilians began constructing a 24-ft. wide motor-road over mountain ranges, rivers and bogs for a total distance of 1,671 miles from Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska. The Alaska Highway was completed on October 29, 1942 and formally opened on November 29, 1942. It has played an important part in the capture of Attu.

To the south-east of Attu lies Kiska, 180 miles away. This is the most important island held by the Japanese in the Aleutians. It is being subjected to terrific air raids. The island is 25 miles long and 5 miles wide, and has a good harbour which is used as a base for submarines and flying boats. The Japanese must be having a much stronger garrison here than they did in Attu. This means that the seizure of Attu will not be immediately followed by the occupation of Kiska. What is likely is that Kiska will be more closely blockaded in future.

* * * * *

Fog-bound Aleutians and Bombing Operations. There is however, one difficulty—fog. The Japanese blamed the fog for their loss of Attu, but it will be helpful to them in keeping Kiska supplied during the next few months. It is important to note here that weather conditions are inextricably bound up with the allied operations in the Aleutians. This area is perennially fog-bound on account of the contact of the cold Arctic currents flowing southward through the Bering Straits with the warm currents sweeping north-eastwards from the China Coast. The worst enemy of the airman is stated to be fog, as large-scale bombing attack on targets cannot successfully be done on account of the ground fog. It is thus clear that the Aleutians are not a good base for bombing operations. Further, communications for supply of bombs and fuel are not of a high order, the air-fields are few, and a large air striking force cannot be maintained in the Aleutians. Heavy long-range bombing attacks at frequent intervals are, therefore, not possible.

THE PRESS IN THE WAR

By ALLAN TAYLOR

THERE is no doubt that the Press has a vital role to play in this world-wide conflagration, and that although hedged round with numerous rules and regulations, restricted as to size, and controlled in variety of ways, it has discharged its important and valuable functions with credit to itself, and with satisfaction to the reading public. In the face of many vicissitudes, and, who can say, perhaps still more stringent restrictions, it will continue to play its part, and an ever-increasing part, in the national war effort.

In the early days of the war stringent regulations were introduced, not only in India, but throughout the Empire, governing the publication of certain classes of news, prohibiting the writing of stories, and generally imposing restrictions on the Press. A free Press is regarded as an essential to democracy, but with the advent of war, it was recognized that these restrictions were necessary, if for no other reason than to prevent important information reaching the ears of the enemy, of the war effort of Britain, and of the Empire. To the general intention of these regulations the Press has readily submitted, although in some instances they might have appeared irksome, and to the lay mind absolutely unnecessary. Still those who are guiding the war effort of the nation must be accepted as the authorities, to decide what should, or should not, be published in the Press. The past has not been easy, the future may be no easier, yet the Press will carry on in the interests of the nation, and its people, for the value of the printed word cannot be over-estimated.

A GREAT HANDICAP

Then a second great handicap under which newspapers in India are labouring is shortage of paper supplies, original sources having been cut off when Norway fell into the clutches of the Nazis, and the Baltic was closed. For many years India had obtained large quantities of paper from Norway and Finland, and when newsprint from these countries could no longer be obtained India had to turn to Canada and the United States. The output there, however, was taxed almost to capacity by the demands of their own newspapers, and of those of other Allied countries. Then there was the shipping difficulty to be overcome, and the result was the imposition of control, and the natural corollary, a reduction in size and increase in price. Newspapers still carried on, but with the entry of Japan into the war, supplies from America were further threatened, and there have been further reductions in the size of all newspapers in India. I do not think it will be denied that newspapers have suffered as much as, if not more than, most other businesses in India as a result of the war, and while in most other concerns substitutes have been found, there is no alternative to paper for the printing of newspapers, and with the great demands which have been made on the limited productive capacity of India, there is none to spare for the Press.

LIAISON BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT

In these war days there is, everywhere, a terrific hunger for factual news, and it is the duty of the newspapers to provide this news. Brief official statements do not satisfy this craving, newspapers must fill in the gaps, and their correspondents must give vivid pen pictures, not only of things that are happening on the battle fronts, but also on the home front, which, as has been emphasized time and again, is just as important to success in the final outcome of this war as the actual fighting. The morale of the people at home is as important as the morale of the fighting troops, and one of the most important duties of a newspaper is to see that this morale on the home front is not, in any way, undermined by the publication of pernicious rumour, or reproduction of careless talk. Threat of internal dissention, lack of a proper spirit to win, may have very serious repercussions on the progress of the fighting, and might even, have the effect of undermining the morale of the men facing the enemy in the battle lines. The newspapers are the liaison between the authorities and the people, and between the people and the Government, and it is their duty, as far as lies in their power, to keep each enlightened as to the needs, and reactions of the other. Newspapers still preserve their freedom of expression and criticism, but it has necessarily to be couched in such a way that no hint will be conveyed to the enemy that his purpose will be served by exploiting something to which attention has been called in the Press. It was public criticism in the Press which had so great an influence on affairs in 1916 when things were not going too well for England, and there have been instances in the present war when similar criticism has had advantageous results on the conduct of the campaign. As a British newspaper commented recently, "It will be a bad day for the public, and for the whole newspaper Press when, through some lack of courage, or some vain desire to avoid displeasure or the reproof of a section, public journals ignore their national responsibilities, and suppress frank and honest criticism, and the expression of opinion, honest and unfettered, which it can only be to the interest of the community to debate."

FACTUAL NEWS STORIES

The Press in India has been fortunate, in some respects, in that it has not been fettered to the same extent in the matter of criticism, and discussion, as have been newspapers in other lands, particularly those controlled by the enemy, where only official information can be published, and directions are given in the way in which views are to be expressed. Even in recent months there have been improvements in the factual news stories which have been released for publication. In the early days of the war there was considerable reticence on the part of those in authority to grant the facilities which the Press demanded, and which they felt it was their and the public's right to possess. It was claimed that the people wanted to know the true facts, but there were many delays in the official release of news stories, and much pettifogging red tape to be cut before news was allowed to be published. After much agitation some of the stringent rules were relaxed, news service improved, and still continue to improve, although even now the Press is still agitating for greater facilities in order that the people of the nations fighting for freedom might be better informed on important issues. History is being written in many places, and the public, through the newspapers, are sharing in the making of that history and continue to demand that they should be allowed to play their not inconsiderable part in its writing.

As I mentioned earlier, the Press endeavours to give, as far as lies in its power, and governed by the censorship rules, accurate factual news, published solely because it is of interest and importance to the general war effort, and not from any hidden motive, that it, or anyone else, has an axe to grind. It is for this reason that the majority of the great newspapers, and all the News Agencies, which circulate news to newspapers in every country, send their own correspondents to centres where important news is to be obtained. These men fill in the gaps which are left in the official communiqués, they tell of the heroism of troops, the difficulties which are cheerfully faced, and give to the reading public the stories for which they are craving. These correspondents share the dangers of the fighting fronts just as the troops, they experience the same hardships, and they often have to pay the same price. More than one newspaperman has been killed in action, and only a very short time ago the announcement was made of an Indian Observer, with the troops in Burma, who paid the supreme sacrifice in his devotion to duty, his duty being to give to the newspaper reading public of India news of the operations of the unit to which he was attached, in difficult and dangerous country, and in close contact with the enemy. Newspapermen, from the very beginning of the war have sailed the seas to tell stories of how convoys battled through air and submarine attacks to carry vital stores and supplies to the fighting men; have gone into action with the Navy and taken their chances with the men of the ships and have died. Others have flown on bombers which have carried out raids on enemy territory, have suffered privations of many kinds to tell the people at home just what dangers the men of the fighting forces encounter, and overcome, in carrying the war to the enemy. In all these newspapermen have lost their lives, but there are others who will carry on for the appetite of the public for news is insatiable.

CORRESPONDENTS AT BATTLE-FRONTS

And these men who cover the news at the battle fronts have to be specially picked, and they undergo, very often, strenuous training so that they will be physically fit to undertake the duties which are demanded of them. To give one very recent instance. Early in the present year newspaper correspondents went, for the first time, with the planes of the Royal Air Force which undertook a big raid on Berlin, and their thrilling stories of that raid have already appeared in the Press. But the men who went with the crews had to live on the air stations for a week before the raid. They underwent medical examinations, land some were rejected because of physical defects which would not enable them to stand the altitude, or the speed of the bombers. They had to undergo preliminary flights to test their reactions, and enable them to be accustomed to the aircraft. They had instruction in parachute jumping, rescue dinghy equipment,

and oxygen apparatus, and the part they would have to play in the event of any emergency. Some of those correspondents never reached Berlin, although fortunately none was lost. One representative of the Press was sitting in the front gun turret, in the nose of the bomber, beside the gunner, and when they were over enemy territory, the gunner was wounded and the plane damaged, and it had to turn back. It was, for him, a narrow escape. Another correspondent was in a plane which also had to turn back. When flying over Denmark one engine of the bomber was put out of action by anti-aircraft fire, and although an attempt was made to carry on, further engine trouble made it necessary for them to return to their base. Still another correspondent, who went right over Berlin, remarked that when the Captain kept the plane on the bombing course for two minutes it made his scalp crawl, and although many of the pilots who took part in the raid remarked that the flak was light it was "bad enough for him." Their experiences were illuminating, and more than one aircraft in which they were flying was damaged by shell splinters. These are the men who are with the fighting forces, telling the public the stories of the war. Newspapermen landed in North Africa with the great expeditionary force, others followed up the great advance in North Africa, and were right up in the front line; and others still have been up behind the Russians in their retreats and advances, and some have been taken prisoners of war. It is only as a result of the work of such men that the general public learns what is really happening on the many war fronts.

And at home they tell of the stupendous efforts which workers in mines and factories are making to keep the fighting forces equipped, of acts of heroism and endurance in the face of bombing and raiding. The story of the war is being written daily in the pages of the Press, but much more has to be told, and will only be told when some of the still strict censorship rules are relaxed. Until then the Press will continue to fulfil its function of stimulating the people to a still greater war efforts, giving news, and offering criticism when necessary, and generally playing its part in the common cause.

—A talk recently broadcast from A.I.R., Madras.

FRUITS OF ANGLO-SOVIET TREATY

THE Anglo-Soviet treaty which throughout the year has been the sheet anchor of Anglo-Soviet relations has brought the respective Governments closer together in their attitudes towards the conduct of the war, treatment of war criminals and problems of post-war security and rehabilitation and, by timely exchange of information concerning policy in the European field, secured the avoidance of many possible misunderstandings, cables *The Times* Moscow correspondent.

Personal contacts between the Prime Ministers and the Foreign Ministers, made during the first year of the alliance, undoubtedly, have been a factor towards the creation of mutual confidence which has since matured as the result of the British Ambassador's frequent meetings with M. Molotov, whose deep and wholehearted interest in the treaty is no secret.

In Moscow as in London, the United States Government's sincere desire to see the alliance prosper has given special satisfaction.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

A year has passed during which on the Russian front the dauntless defenders of Sebastopol fought a magnificent delaying action: the German plan to sweep behind Moscow was broken; when at the foot of the Caucasian passes Kleist's armour was scorched and destroyed and in the packing cellar of Stalingrad's Universal Stores the proud General Paulus surrendered to a 21-year-old Ukrainian Lieutenant.

It is a year that has seen the Wehrmacht rolled back beyond the periphery of its 1941 gains; its satellite armies shattered and their crippled remnants return home with tales of woe and murmurings of discontent; Leningrad is relieved and Moscow given breathing space; and new armies raised and armed for the tasks still ahead. It is a year during which the harvest has been barnered by women and children from virgin land; a year when the entire industrial system was shifted on wheels from one continent to another and attained the greatest stature; a year which has brought sorrow and with it glory to every Russian home.

Such events, overshadowed by the gradually developing friendship between the Soviet Union and her allies, have demanded the whole effort of every man, woman and youth. Russia can ill-afford a single moment for tasks which have no immediate bearing on the war's conduct.

SOUND BASIS

Yet during that year there has been laid soundly and painstakingly the foundation of Anglo-Russian understanding. Confidence without understanding there cannot be. To gain, the first, Russia's allies themselves have at least half the responsibility. Towards the second, Russia has made, as far as circumstances have permitted, a noteworthy progress.

Rather than spend their efforts on spectacular demonstrations of amity, Soviet authorities have worked steadily with available material to satisfy popular desire for knowledge about the Allies. To hold a congress about British and American films, for instance, famous directors like Eisenstein and Pudovkin had to interrupt their work in Central Asia and fly to Moscow. Circulation in the Union's far-flung cities of the excellent exhibition of material, sent by the Ministry of Information, means reserving space for transport at a time when little but war material and food is moving by freight train. This dissemination of knowledge has had to seek more economical channels.

To this end the Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries has concentrated on the widest possible distribution of books and journals to specialist organizations, who, in turn, use the contents for their local needs. Professors Kapitsa and Joffe, as members of the scientific panel of the Society, have seen that all available suitable material has been effectively distributed. A number of books published in England are on sale in the Soviet Union, but in addition hundreds of copies despatched from England and America according to carefully prepared lists have been presented to the Central Library of Foreign Literature and to the Lenin Library which distribute them to branch libraries in factories, parks of provincial towns and State farms to meet the requirements of research students and specialists.

The library of the Academy of Science and the Central Medical Library are among the regular recipients of such books.

BEYOND THE WAR

With this material at hand, several Soviet organizations during the year have arranged a series of lectures by specialists covering various aspects of British life. It is significant that the subjects are by no means confined to Britain at war and that the lectures have sought to establish in the students' minds the idea that reasons other than partnership-in-arms link the two lands.

Thus Professor Durdinevsky at the Moscow University has given a course of lectures on the British Empire, past and present, as a part of the effort to promote an understanding of the British Commonwealth, which is soon to be supplemented by a publication of exhaustive study prepared by the publishers of the Soviet Encyclopaedia. Another series of lectures deals with Anglo-Russian relations during the 19th century, while Professor Nusinov has traced connexions between Pushkin and Tolstoy and England. A new history of English literature is in preparation by Professor Dzhivilegov and two recently published text books in the English language, editions of many thousands, were sold out in 30 minutes. Subjects at recent students' discussions included a detailed study of the North African operations and of the Pacific war.

Anniversaries of Walton, Newton and Wordsworth were occasions for demonstrative exhibitions. Sheet music and gramophone records have gone far afield and on the eve of the treaty's first anniversary an orchestral concert had been arranged by the State orchestra in Moscow at which a truly representative programme of modern English music was played.

It is now just over a year since the Director of the Press section of the British Embassy with two members of his staff landed without luggage and in clothes torn in battle from a small trawler on Russia's northern shores. In August the first copies of *British Ally*, a weekly paper in the Russian language, appeared from a makeshift office in Kuibyshev. It contained about 3,500 words and a fair number of photographs. Each issue took four to six weeks in preparation, and by the time the many events it recorded reached the Russian reader, they were already stale. Meanwhile, a lost library has been replaced by material brought with the greatest difficulty from England and one by one additional members of staff have arrived.

NEW DIPLOMACY

British Ally, which will in future be published in Moscow, has increased its circulation to 20,000 with a readership reckoned at 10 times that number, and what is more important has doubled the reading matter in

each issue and much reduced the preparation period. A flow of material is arriving from England and books, films, photographs and other publicity material are distributed from Kuibyshev and Moscow to suitable Soviet organizations, whose gratitude is always bounteous and sometimes touchingly so.

Long range effect of this work far surpasses its immediate effect. Here is a company of young and keen people, many Russian-speaking, all alive to the importance of their jobs, whose eventual knowledge is likely to be of supreme import for fostering Anglo-Soviet relations.

Hard work and understanding shown by both parties to the treaty in its first year have but broken the ground. Here in Russia at least there are many who know how rich a harvest it can yield.

BRITAIN IS LEASE-LENDING TOO

By OSWALD DUTCH

SEVENTEEN hours after Hitler's attack on Russia (on June 22, 1941), Churchill promised all possible British aid to the Soviet Union. Few people know that the first British deliveries to Russia were dispatched as early as the last weeks of this same June, the first consignment consisting of 500,000 pairs of boots which were urgently needed by the Russian army. Since then heavier goods have been shipped thousands of miles to Russia, among them (up to the end of 1942) no fewer than 3,080 aeroplanes, 2,974 tanks, 4,000 lorries and 70,000,000 cases of ammunition.

In addition, Britain has sent supplies of which she herself was extremely short, including 50,000 tons of her "invaluable rubber stocks" (to quote Oliver Lyttelton, British Minister of Supply), enough cloth for military uniforms to stretch from the Black Sea to the Arctic Ocean (according to Oliver Stanley, Minister for the Dominions), 1,500,000 surgical instruments, 150 tons of medical supplies, 97 X-ray units, 1,000,000 tons of sugar, 2,500,000 tons of wheat and flour, 3,000,000 pairs of boots and numerous other articles such as army clothing, blankets, engines and railway trucks (for Persia), etc.

FACTORIES MAKE A JOURNEY

The public knows that Great Britain has sent large quantities of goods to Russia, for frequent accounts have appeared in the newspapers of the dangerous convoy journeys round the North Cape. Less is known of the help given by Britain to America under the lease-lend agreement.

At the end of 1941, when the United States were attacked by Japan, a number of British factories were transported to America. No fewer than 12 complete shell-making plants were shipped westwards, while over 400 machines were taken from various British factories, sent to America, and set up there in new factories. Full equipment for a huge gun-barrel factory also found its way to America and now forms the largest gun factory in the United States.

FURTHER EQUIPMENT

Six thousand British barrage balloons were shipped—not flown—to America and now protect the west coast of the United States against possible Japanese air attacks. In the winter of 1941–42 America had no protection against air and submarine attacks; under the lease-lend agreement Great Britain has sent a large number of anti-aircraft guns for the defence of the Panama Canal and of American east coast towns.

Other supplies include complete radio-location equipment, many other secret British defence inventions, large consignments of British coastal defence planes, and also destroyers, corvettes and E-boats for the fight against German and Japanese submarines.

HELP FOR U.S. WAR INDUSTRY

In September 1942, the United States Office of War Information declared that British help in the building up of the American army and fleet had been invaluable. Apart from lend-lease deliveries, Great Britain had placed orders for war materials in the United States amounting to more than 7,000,000,000 between 1939 and 1941 (cash purchases outside the lease-lend pact). These orders had enabled American industry to switch over to war production long before America's entry into the war and greatly facilitated further adaptation. Two hundred million dollars of British capital was invested in the development of those war factories.

FOOD SUPPLIES

It is interesting, too, to look at the lease-lend deliveries of food for the American troops from Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand. In the south-west Pacific alone the British Dominions have supplied 200,000,000 tons of food to the American forces. United States troops in Great Britain have received £290,000,000 worth of foodstuffs to supplement supplies sent from America, chiefly flour, sugar, potatoes, fresh vegetables and jam. These goods were delivered without payment, together with large quantities of shells and ammunition, 500,000 mines, and thousands of bombs and parachutes.

Almost all camouflage equipment for American camps and army vehicles has been supplied by Great Britain, a total area of 20,000,000 square feet has been turned over to the Americans without payment for the housing of their troops, aerodromes, workshops, etc. The total value of the British building programme undertaken on behalf of the U.S. troops in England amounts to over $600,000,000.

Apart from the performances of the British Navy, Army and Air Force, Great Britain has rendered considerable services to the Allies under the lease-lend agreements. Plainly, lease-lend is not a one-sided affair and, within the limits of her capacity, Great Britain has made a worthy contribution in return for the immense American shipments.

STORMING EUROPEAN FORTRESS BY STAGES

By LIEUT.-GEN. M. N. MARTIN

HOW is Germany to be defeated? To this question we may find a clue in Mr. Churchill's reference to North Africa in his speech to the United States Congress. Anglo-American landings faced the enemy with the dilemma that either he must relinquish valuable territory or else he must fight in conditions disadvantageous to him. He chose the latter alternative to his undoing.

How then can we hope to reproduce these conditions elsewhere? Again Mr. Churchill gives us an answer. Anglo-American air forces, already superior to those of Germany and Italy, will pursue a relentless and ever-growing offensive with the dual object of destroying the enemy war potential and finally establishing their own air supremacy in large scale air warfare to which their offensive will inevitably give rise.

When this dual object has been attained, conditions for a successful invasion of Germany itself will at last have been created. Sir Archibald Sinclair, elaborating the same theme, has declared: "There is only one hope of getting to Berlin without the slaughter which land battles of the last war entailed and, that is, paralysis of German war power by the Bomber Command . . . American daylight bombing is a complement of our night bombing. All we now require to destroy the sources of German war power is a large number of British and American bombers."

AMERICAN HEAVY BOMBERS

That we shall get these American bombers is presumably one of the decisions which will receive final approval in Washington. Roosevelt has told us that more than half the United States air effort is already allocated to the European front. We know, too, that the United States production of heavy bombers now is 500 per month and that it will reach 1,000 a month within a year. Thus our home-based air offensive grows.

Meanwhile, on the Mediterranean front, the battle for air mastery is already joined. Indeed, over Sardinia, Southern Italy and Sicily, it is well on the way to being won already. Over Greece and the Balkans, however, its winning will be harder. Before we can commit our land forces to battle in any given sector the conditions in that sector must be, if not favourable, then as Churchill put it, "tolerable" at least.

Progressively, therefore, as air battle over each new sector of a front is won, so we begin to create these tolerable conditions there. Thus an assault on the

fortress of Europe, like an assault on a mediæval castle, may best be carried out by stages. First, we establish fire superiority over a sector of the outer wall, and carry it by assault; next we use the outer wall to build up fire superiority once more over the wall within.

IF ITALY WAS WON

Meanwhile in the other sectors, the enemy may still be on the outer walls. For instance, if in this assault of ours by stages, we should come at length to Northern Italy, we should have won a base for air attack which together with that of our home-based air forces would wipe out once and for all German war potential. It would be a base too from which our land forces might strike out east into the Balkans or west into France. Moreover, we should have deracinated whatever Italian forces might still remain in the Balkans and the Dodecanese forces believed now to number no fewer than some 30 divisions.

A stage would thus be set for storming the keep itself.

As to the when and where of the opening stages of land assault, Mr. Churchill told us only that our future operations, depending as they do not only on elaboration of plans in the minutest detail but on great concentrations of shipping, troops and equipment, are still within the time schedule set for them. Thus the enemy's sacrifice of his Tunisian armies has been in vain.

The fortress of Europe has a garrison of about 100 German field divisions, besides local defence troops, from 60 to 70 Italian divisions with, perhaps, a million second-line troops and Black Shirts behind them and 17 Bulgarian divisions, not to mention the Rumanians, Hungarians and Finns. A mixed grill, no doubt, but none the less all the better for any pasting that air power can give it.

WILL THE AXIS ATTACK TURKEY?

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

THE Tunisian campaign is coming to a close. By the time this despatch reaches India, it may be over. As the end approaches, the interest of the Turkish public in the campaign increases, as does at the same time the anxiety in the Balkans.

"What is Turkey going to do?" must be the question that everybody is asking in the Axis camp. Turkey's main policy remains unchanged, that is, if other countries' policy towards Turkey also remains unchanged. There is a Turkish proverb: "Chase a trapped cat in a locked room with a stick, and it becomes a tiger." This cat is now Germany. Germany's satellites are also mad cats.

What are the chances of an attack on Turkey by the mad cats of Europe? In any case, there can be no talk of Turkish aggression and, therefore, it is an Axis attack that is most likely to bring Turkey into the war. Germany is in no position to do this herself. To build up an attacking force against Turkey might take at least six weeks from now, and there is no sign of it. Decidedly, Hitler himself cannot do it. Can Mussolini do it?

HE CAN'T

It is known here that Italy has for some time been trying to bring her own occupation armies back to Italy and leave the butchering and policing of the occupied Balkan countries to the Germans and Bulgarians. But Germany is not inclined to take all this upon herself. The returning Italian armies may also demoralize the Italian population and form the nucleus of a ferment which could lead to open revolt. Italy cannot spare more troops. She cannot send more troops to the Russian front, and she could not spare more for Tunisia. She cannot, therefore, spare any for an attack on Turkey.

This is the time and place to recall an anecdote which is told here of Kemal Ataturk. During talks with his friends, he tried always to lay down some hard and fast rules which constitute his political testament. He once said: "If Turkey wants to become a great Power she must war with a great Power and obtain a smashing victory. The only Power that I can see we could attack and smash is Italy." The Italians know this only too well. With the example of the Greek campaign behind them, they know what their fate will be if they attack Turkey.

But there is Bulgaria and it is just possible that Hitler told King Boris at Salzburg to try and probe Turkish reactions and see what the chances are. Bulgaria can put about 30 divisions in the field and with German air support and technical co-operation may give Turkey a fight.

Germany is trying to give the Allies the impression that she has lost her grip on the Balkan satellites. She is trying to create the illusion that the Balkans are the weakest spot in Europe's underbelly because she knows that a successful invasion of Italy may spell disaster.

POWERLESS SATELLITES

At the same time a new conflagration in the eastern Mediterranean might help to postpone any Allied plans for the rest of Europe. That is why the possibility of Bulgaria attacking Turkey is not excluded from Turkish calculations. Of course, they all know that the game is up, but all the satellite countries are so firmly in the grip of the Axis that they cannot move and cannot fight without their help, without German arms and without the Luftwaffe behind them, or, as the case may be, against them.

None of these diversions are likely to make either the United Nations or Turkey go out of their set course. From here, we cannot say what the Allies intend doing after Tunis, but we know that Turkey is not likely to change her active policy in the next few weeks. It all depends, of course, on what Turkey's neighbours will do.

But one thing is certain, and that is that Turkey is now more prepared than ever. In May, the Grand National Assembly will have to pass the new budget. Nearly £ (T) 500,000,000 are in the ordinary budget and as much in the extraordinary expense budgets which will be voted on during the year. This means that Turkey is now spending more than £ (T) 2,000,000 a day on her army, navy and air force. Before attacking Turkey, King Boris will have to consider these figures and if by chance he comes to the wrong conclusion and attacks, Turkey will be ready, and, who knows, perhaps Turkey's contribution will help to finish the war a few days earlier.

AXIS BEING HIT ON THREE SIDES

By PETER MASEFIELD

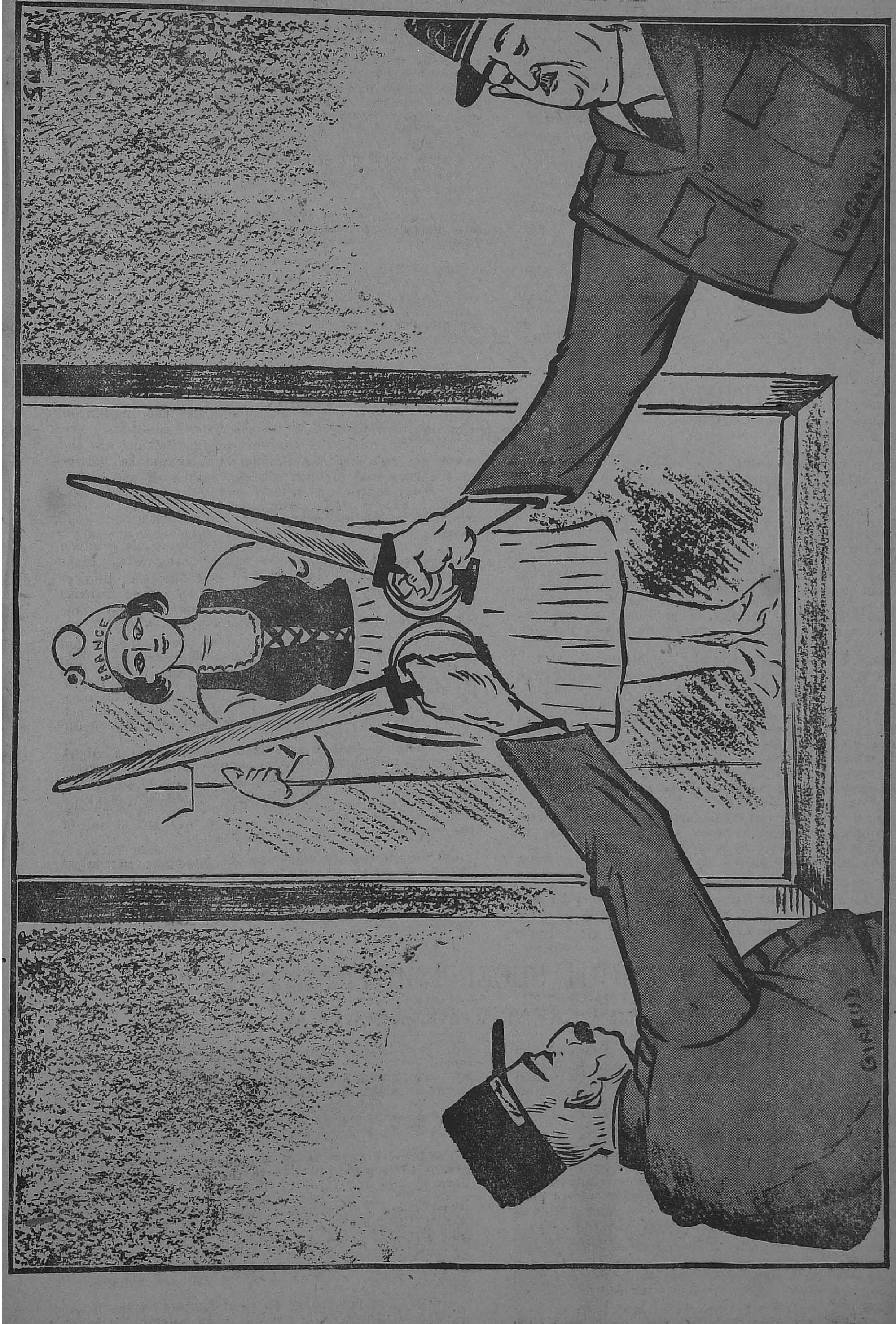
THE tide of Allied air power has begun to surge over Germany from the west. Now from Africa as well, the Axis partners are facing domination in the air. From the ruins of Carthage comes a new and mightier threat to Rome than any it has faced before.

Fast engines of destruction, 10 times bigger and 40 times faster than Hannibal's elephants, now bear down from Africa's shore heedless alike of sea, land and mountains or the valleys which may stand between them and their objectives.

In fact the tactical air force of the Mediterranean Air Command has finished its job on the Africa mainland. Now it re-forms and re-fits for new operations while the strategic air force takes up the task of preparing the way at long range for the new operations to come.

The war from Africa must be judged against the war as a whole. Very strong British and American air forces are grouped from Oran in the west to Egypt. To meet this threat the Axis is having to dispose every aircraft it can spare, some 1,500 operational aircraft of the Italian Regia Aeronautica together with nearly 1,000 German machines of which about 350 are fighters.

Germany is desperately short of fighters on the Russian front. They are badly needed in an attempt to counter the general numerical superiority in the air which the Red air fleet has built up during the winter. The 350



FRANCE : "THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN"

fighters in the Mediterranean area would be invaluable in support of the forthcoming operations in Russia. But demands for reinforcements in the Mediterranean are even more pressing to the Axis than those from its armies in Russia. Yet any further transfers from the Luftwaffe in the East will present the Red air fleet with undisputed command of the air. And it is obvious what that implies to-day.

Thus the enemy is in a quandary. He has about 4,000 operation aircraft in all with a further 1,800 Italian, 300 of them under General Romeplli in Russia. And the menace now is to be faced on three major fronts—the west, the Mediterranean and Russia. There are not enough aircraft to go round. The Allies have superiority on all fronts.

SUPPLYING OIL FOR AIR FORCE

This air superiority at present extends in a horse-shoe, from the British Isles through North Africa and through Syria to Moscow. Allied air strength is at present concentrated along three main sectors of this horse-shoe, in Great Britain, Tunisia and on the central front in Russia. Even so, all is not easy, for air concentrations can be kept effective only by constant supply. Every gallon of fuel and oil has to be brought by sea both in the British Isles and North Africa. Just what this means can be seen when one considers the amounts consumed in a single operation. For instance, in one day towards the end of the North African campaign more than 2,500 sorties were flown by the tactical air force alone. In addition, the strategic air force was making more than 400 bomber sorties daily.

If we assume that two-thirds of the sorties of the tactical air force were by single engine aircraft and the rest by 2-motor types and that each of the sorties lasted an hour, then we find that approximately 130,000 gallons of fuel would have been needed for tactical sorties in one day. And if half the aircraft of the strategic air force were 4-motor bombers and the rest 2-motor and each strategic sortie averaged four hours, then about 190,000 gallons would have been needed for one day's strategic operations—a total of 320,000 gallons for operational aircraft alone—not including transports or any of the thousands of motor vehicles used in the campaign. Aviation fuel is heavy and bulky and dangerous stuff to transport—320,000 gallons in weight is exactly 1,000 tons. A very large proportion of the total supplies, obviously, has had to be fuel. That the aircraft have hardly had to go short and the weight of attacks steadily increased and will go on increasing, is a tremendous tribute to the Allied organization for supply.

Now we may assume that African air forces are gathering themselves for the next stage. Five main targets come into view. They are shipping, air bases, land communications, ports and industry. The United Nations' air preparation gathers force for the next stage. It is certain to play a dominant part.

"UNDERMINING" AXIS SEA STRENGTH

By A. J. McWHINNIE

NOT a single British ship was sunk by mines in the whole of the Tunisian campaign. But the Axis lost nearly 40 vessels. Not only mines dropped from the air but every mining operation at sea takes on a new significance as Allied preparations for the invasion of Europe develop apace.

Much of the work, both of minelayers and minesweepers, proceeding as it does without a pause, never comes to light, but several important facts have been made known recently. For the first time, it has been possible for an official announcement to be made giving the approximate number of Axis ships whose loss or damage was directly attributable to mining during a specific campaign. The British Admiralty communiqué stated that between 30 and 40 Axis Mediterranean warships, supply ships and auxiliary vessels had been sunk or severely damaged by mines during the Tunisian campaign. Those 30 or 40 Axis shipping casualties are in addition, of course, to more than 500 Axis ships sunk or damaged since the Allied landings in November by British submarines, surface warships and Allied aircraft.

BRITAIN'S SCIENTISTS KEEP AHEAD

Within a few hours of that communiqué naval correspondents in London were able to announce that in six months of the Tunisian campaign not a single British merchant ship had been sunk by Axis mines in the same waters.

The mine and counter-mine battle of wits goes on and will go on day and night, month after month, so long as the war lasts. Brilliant scientific brains working in secret are bringing new devices to bear in the battle all the time with Britain scoring heavily all along the line. The Tunisian announcements were further proof of their success and natural sequels to their earlier triumphs in finding answers to Hitler's magnetic and acoustic mines with both remarkable speed and efficiency.

It can only be assumed, as it almost certainly is being assumed in Berlin and Rome, that British mining experts feel very confident about their future operations and because of that new confidence, are prepared to relax their former most stringent secrecy rules.

Naval observers of many nations who sailed with the Royal Navy in Britain's darker days are undoubtedly impressed now by the changed shipping situation round the British Isles. Every week not less than 70,000 tons of shipping sails safely through the English Channel in one direction alone; they sail safely under Nazi eyes.

Recent news from waters in which Axis ships might be expected to carry out vital supply operations suggests that Britain to-day is staging a full-scale mining campaign. No one in Britain, remembering the shipping losses sustained during the big German mining campaign and the anxiety those losses caused, has any doubt of the efficacy of the big scale mine plan.

Germans have been expecting the mine menace against them to be increased. At a time when every effort was being made to mass produce U-boats, prodigious efforts were also made to build up large flotillas of German minesweeping vessels. The strain on Axis minesweeping vessels is terrific.

WENT WITHOUT SLEEP FOR FOUR DAYS

SUBEDAR'S GREAT WORK WINS I.O.M.

STORIES of great courage and fine leadership in the fighting on the Etizwe front in Burma lie behind the recently announced awards of the I.O.M. (2nd class) to Subedar Jiwan Ram, and the I.D.S.M. to Havildar Phula Ram and Rifleman Mohammad Yusaf, all of the 6th Rajputana Rifles.

Commanding a company of his battalion, Subedar Jiwan Ram beat off six attacks from surrounding Japanese on March 6. He withdrew his men safely but found himself cut off. Two days later he rejoined his battalion, having made his way through the enemy positions.

By force of personal example and leadership the Subedar held the company together and in order to ensure this he went without sleep for four days.

"Throughout all the operations this V.C.O. has been tower of strength in the battalion" states the official citation.

Subedar Jiwan Ram is a Hindu Jat, and comes from **Khireer village, Jhunhunu tehsil, Jaipur State.**

In hand-to-hand fighting on March 7 in which his men fought to the very end, repulsing repeated enemy attacks, Havildar Phula Ram, a Hindu Jat, of Kasambi village, Didwani tehsil, Jodhpur State, was wounded in several places by sword cuts. Abrasions on the right hand were certified as having been caused by the Havildar holding and resisting a sharp weapon, probably a sword.

The safe evacuation of wounded during a battle on March 15 was entirely due to the good leadership, intelligence, and initiative of Rifleman Mohammad Yusaf.

His party came under enemy machine-gun fire whereupon he engaged the post with rapid rifle fire, and continued to give covering fire while the stretcher party under his orders moved to safety. The next day he guided out a carrier containing food and water to his company position.

Rifleman Mohammad Yusaf's home is Hala village, **Kahuta tehsil in the Rawalpindi district. He is a Punjabi Mussalman of the Rajput-Mughal caste.**

SOUTHERN ARMY TRAINS WITH LIVE AMMUNITION

PERCHED up on a hill overlooking a valley surrounded by hills and jungle, the press correspondents of Bangalore had an opportunity of witnessing, somewhere in South India, a most remarkable demonstration. Taking part in this demonstration was infantry, tanks, carriers, mortars, artillery and aeroplanes, all of whom used live ammunition.

The grand stand for visitors was on the slopes of a hill. Series of officers gave a running commentary over a loud speaker throughout the demonstration. Among the spectators were many a notable military commander. The audience included army officers, and other ranks, civil and police officials, and members of the press.

The first phase of the demonstration showed tanks and infantry advancing together until they were stopped by enemy fire. The tanks and infantry retaliated. A terrific battle ensued. One could hear, sitting on the hill top through a loud-speaker, various wireless messages which one tank was passing to another.

A tense atmosphere prevailed as tank after tank came, went in a hull down position, fired, advanced and fired again. Camouflage, close co-operation between infantry and tanks, men taking cover to avoid being hit (for it was all live ammunition). Very-light signals announcing success or arrival at a certain bound, were sights never to be forgotten.

A flight of planes then swooped down to carry out reconnaissance of this area and flew so low down to "spot" things that it nearly took the tree tops off. Later it dropped heavy explosives on a target which blew up to the skies.

The second phase of the demonstration showed infantry and tanks advancing under an artillery barrage. This was extremely exciting—one could hear shells from batteries lying miles behind, whistling past one's ears, and dropping with deadly accuracy ahead of the troops who were advancing under their cover. As troops captured a position so the artillery barrage lifted and went ahead. Wireless communication was maintained throughout this advance—one could hear through the loud speaker Commanders shouting out orders from their tanks.

It was also seen how communication is maintained during a battle between artillery, infantry, tanks and air.

Every now and then one saw shells bursting and then setting fire to the objects around the area where they burst.

The demonstration lasted for 2 hours. Right in front of us we had seen a battle in all its aspects, with live shells, ammunition and with the "atmosphere" which was so tense.

Troops who took part in it were tough, well-trained and keen. All arrangements in connexion with this exercise were well laid on. There was a general air of efficiency everywhere.

LALLU THE SWEEPER

LALLU'S job is to sweep out the tents of his own section, the barber's tent, the carpenters' tent and the goats' tent. He seems to give a little extra care to the goats' tent and this is his grave and friendly salute, perhaps, to those about to depart this world in order to be transformed into the unit's food.

Recently there have been certain fundamental changes in Lallu, and one cannot help wondering where they may lead him. It all started when the Sergeant-Major told him to clean his teeth—although there may be a coincidence here, and one fact may have no real bearing on the other. But ever since he changed his set of brown fangs for a couple of rows of human teeth highly creditable in their whiteness, Lallu has been taking great pride in his personal appearance, and looking about him with an air of self-confidence, of triumph—almost of impudence.

He is rather a nice-looking fellow of eighteen, and now, when he is dressed for walking out, he is as smart as any soldier in the company. Up to a few weeks ago he was quiet, unobtrusive, retiring, sought only the company of other sweepers; but recently he has been talking to sappers, and has even been out with them: for there is something compelling about the new Lallu, and sappers have been heard to imply that it is not that one cannot avoid the company of this sweeper, but that for some reason one does not really want to.

The plain fact is that Lallu is a changed man. He has even begun to talk about his home and family, and his work before he joined the Army; and about these things there appears to be some mystery.

His people are *not* sweeper class: he is very definite about this. They have a prosperous farm in a village near Delhi. When someone asked him why he was enrolled in his non-combatant capacity, he replied that it was because of misunderstanding with the havildar at the Recruiting office.

As Lallu's teeth have become whiter, his clothes cleaner and more assiduously pressed, so the farm near Delhi has become larger and more prosperous. Now his father is one of the leading men of the village, and Lallu's wife (she is a year younger than he, and they have been married seven years) is the daughter of a prominent landowner. Eventually Lallu and his family may have in their veins the blood of princes.

Accompanying this process of aggrandizement, his thoughts move towards ships, for it is not for nothing that he works, walks, and talks with soldiers whose peculiar and fascinating duty it is to work on ships, loading and discharging the supplies of war. Lallu derives a vicarious dignity from being with his friends of the Indian Engineers. He has admitted that he has never seen the sea, and that until the company moved to its present station he had never seen a ship. But now his thoughts return to ships—oh, to work on ships that come from the sea and go to sea, to work a winch, to drive a crane, to climb up and down vertical iron ladders out of and into the deep, hidden parts of a ship! To sling and tie, to lash and chain, to shout and chant, to move among and wild, all-knowing men of the sea! To be (almost) a soldier and sailor in one!

Such, at the moment, is Lallu's picture of bliss: so far have his white teeth and clean clothes, against an improving, if imaginary, social background, led him; now he plans to be remustered one day as a Sapper—and indeed such a metamorphosis is not impossible.

Meanwhile he does not forget his friends the goats; in friendliness he continues to give that little extra attention to their tent. Perhaps what principally earns his sympathy for them is the material difference between his position and theirs: by no effort on their part, by the exercise of no power on earth, can the unfortunate creatures ever be remustered.

But Lallu may not always be a sweeper.

STRANGLEHOLD OF R.A.F. MINES

By Wing Commander L. V. FRASER

THE Ruhr devastation had a sudden reward—but steady profit goes on growing. From the breached Mohne and Eder dams has poured spectacular proof of the effectiveness of what is possibly the least known side of the R.A.F.'s offensive.

"The Bomber Command laid mines in enemy waters," said the first communiqué on the great shrewd blow at the war industries of the Ruhr. Then a few hours later came dramatic evidence of the mighty damage that had been caused. Minelaying took on itself a new importance in the public mind.

It was known that power stations had gone, rivers were in full and uncontrolled flood, bridges had broken and 300,000,000 tons of water were bringing evergrowing destruction in the heart of Germany's highly centralized industrial area. But perhaps passed over in telling this exploit was a small announcement from a neutral country.

It said that a steamer taking nickel to Germany sank off the west coast of Sweden. It was thought to have struck a mine. Just as the dams proved sensationally the value of the R.A.F.'s minelaying strategy, the little item about the nickel ship offered quietly but conclusively, proof of the success of its more normal day to day activities. It points the importance of the operations like the one that the R.A.F. carried out on the night of April 28, when more mines were laid in enemy waters than on any previous occasion. Minelaying aircraft had also gone out in strong force the

night before. In the two operations, they laid as many mines as the R.A.F. normally dropped in a month or as were laid in the whole of 1941.

A mine may lie in a certain area for weeks, possibly for months, before its victim passes it and may be many months before we hear, if we ever do, that a ship has been sunk. A typical instance is the story of the 2,000-ton Finnish *Inga*, laden with iron ore which was sunk in the Kiel Canal in December.

At first, it was said that the *Inga* had been sunk in collision; then there was a story that its loss was the work of the saboteurs. In fact, the ship had been sunk by a mine laid six months earlier. The size and frequency of the R.A.F.'s mine-laying sorties have grown immeasurably since then, with multiplied effect on Hitler's economic and military strategy.

The Germans have devoted much labour and effort in an attempt to guard their shipping lanes from those attacks. They had to increase their fleet of minesweepers enormously. In Hitler's mercantile marine, minesweeping is now so dangerous and unpleasant that Nazis have had to increase the pay of officers and men whose morale has been steadily falling.

Then there are the fighters that have to be sent up at night to patrol the Baltic and other sea areas in a ceaseless but vain effort to stop the R.A.F.

Flak ships have to be stationed at entrances along trade routes. One pilot who went out on April 28, said afterwards that defences in the Baltic were as dangerous as on the way to Essen. And Essen is the most heavily defended city in Germany. That is how much Nazis fear British mines.

The public have rightly seen in these recent sorties another way of the Royal Air Force helping the Russians.

"MINES WERE LAID IN ENEMY WATERS"

[How often have you heard this phrase in the B.B.C.'s news bulletins? You may have thought that minelaying by air was a picnic for R.A.F. pilots. Carl Olsson reminds you in this article from "London Calling" that it is a job calling for a high degree of courage, great coolness, and resolution.]

LAST night aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines in enemy waters. Behind that familiar, terse phrase in R.A.F. communiqués there is a story of brilliant planning and of super-flying by R.A.F. pilots under extremely hazardous conditions, a story which began almost when this war started, the story, furthermore, of a secret but most potent weapon in our operations against the enemy.

On many nights, and especially on those nights when the weather makes bombing attacks on German cities too chancy and expensive, our Stirlings, Lancasters and Wellingtons set out with their loads of death-dealing mines which they drop in the sea lanes used by German transport. They are planted in canals and coastal waterways all the way from Norway to the French Atlantic coast, in the Baltic, Kattegat, Kiel Canal, and, indeed, in all Axis waters, even as far away as the Mediterranean . . . in all waters where it would be risky for our naval minelayers to penetrate.

This minelaying from the air was the first and probably the best example of co-operation between two Services. The Royal Navy decides where, when and what types of mines shall be dropped and the R.A.F. does the job.

MAGNITUDE OF THIS HIDDEN TASK

You can get some idea of the magnitude of this hidden task by some figures recently disclosed in a joint R.A.F. and Admiralty bulletin. In fifteen months ending September last our minelaying aircraft had flown a total of 3,000,000 miles, and since the beginning of the war the number of mines laid runs well into six figures (as against the total of 128,652 laid by the Navy for the whole of the last war).

The actual effects of all this difficult and dangerous work cannot be gauged exactly. The enemy does not report his losses. But our combined Intelligence Services estimate that for every enemy ship known to be sunk by mines there is at least another that has suffered the same fate.

Ships sunk are, of course, a direct return for the effort involved. But it is the indirect effect of this aerial minelaying that probably pays the best dividends to our war strategy.

With Hitler's forces strung out over Russia and Europe, from the Don to the Atlantic and from North Cape to the Mediterranean his supply and transport problems are strained to the uttermost. The continual onslaught made by Bomber and Fighter Commands on the German and French railway systems has driven a lot of his supply transport into seaborne coastal traffic.

When we mine those routes and keep on mining them we cause tremendous delay and dislocation that affect in turn all the enemy's war plans.

Minelaying from the air diverts German sea traffic to other routes where it becomes vulnerable to other forms of attack. Lastly, an enormous amount of the enemy's available man-power and tonnage is diverted to running the large numbers of minesweepers he requires to keep hundreds of miles of sea lanes continually swept.

And the men he must use for this work are of a type he can ill afford to spare. He cannot use cripples or children or women on minesweeping work.

It is well known now that most mines dropped from the air come down with a parachute device to lessen the impact shock, a shock which might upset the mine's mechanism when it strikes the water. But mines, too, are of many different types, each suited for a particular kind of operation. There is a continual battle of wits going on between our scientists on the one hand and the German minesweeping services on the other.

MOST DIFFICULT KIND OF FLYING

What is minelaying like from the pilots' and air crews' points of view? First, it involves the most difficult kind of flying and extraordinary navigation skill. It is no use sowing mines any-old-how in enemy waters. They must be laid in specific spots decided upon by the Admiralty from its knowledge of the sea routes used by the enemy. And those spots must be found in the dark, over water and without the help of those landmarks that guide the crews on their way to a bombing target. It is mostly low flying, and the pilot has to do his best to conceal his presence by glide approaches with engines cut off. Remember that spotters from sea and shore are continually on the lookout and ready to warn their minesweepers of suspect positions.

Such low-flying penetration, often into the enemy's very backyard, into heavily defended places, such as the Kiel Canal, also calls for a high degree of courage, great coolness, and resolution.

From the point of view of the average bomber pilot it is also very monotonous, boring work, and work without any immediate reward to the eye or feelings. When he attacks a land target, even though he may have to fight his way through a lot of flak and air opposition he has at least the satisfaction of seeing his bombs hit the target; he sees the fires and the angry attempts of the enemy to confuse him and drive him away. But with minelaying there is none of that relief. After the strain of finding the exact spot in the dark he presses a button or pulls a lever and the mine vanishes silently into the shadowy waters below. And that is that. No bangs or flashes. He doesn't even know whether the deadly thing he has sown will have any direct effect or not.

Aerial minelaying is an invisible front which we are putting up against the enemy. But to those engaged on this dangerous, thankless, and quite unspectacular task there is at least the satisfaction of knowing that it is one of the most valuable fronts of all.

Only a Rehearsal!

Six parachute troops were up for their first rehearsal jump and the first five had already leapt into the air. Six was just going to jump when the C.O. queried: "Hi, where's your parachute?"

"Oh," said Six. "I thought this was just a rehearsal."

THE BALKANS: AXIS HEADACHE

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

FOR some time there has been certain activity in the Balkans indicating that the Axis is beginning to be worried. As is usual in the spring, after the long winter months, the various staffs proceed to reinforce the garrisons, change the dispositions of troops and intensify their supplies to the existing garrisons. The Balkans have always given those in charge of transport a headache, and this headache gets worse in winter. Means of communication are generally inadequate: the few railways that there are lead in the wrong direction; roads are bad; and bridges have deteriorated.

For months past the Todt organization has mobilised all the available labour in Greece, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia and despite the difficult winter conditions has tried to improve communications by extensive repair and maintenance work and also by constructing new roads. Bulgaria herself has completed several short strategic railway links to enable her to communicate directly with the occupied Mediterranean coast of what was former Greek territory. Parallel with this activity there have been reports from time to time that the Axis were fortifying various points on the Greek and Bulgarian Mediterranean coasts and also the whole of the Black Sea coast belonging to Bulgaria and Rumania.

The somewhat prolonged fighting in Tunisia may have given Italy a few more days to prepare, but that can hardly be said for the Balkans. This holds good only if the United Nations choose to strike in the Balkans, and that we do not know yet. Neither does the Axis, which accounts for the feverish activity everywhere.

BULGARIA IN A MESS

In Bulgaria the mess seems to be greater than anywhere else. While the Germans are trying to reinforce the Greek coast and the Greek islands under their occupation, and in consequence need the Bulgarian railways and roads very badly, the Bulgarian Government is holding large-scale manoeuvres. All stations and roads are blocked, first by the Bulgarians who are moving their own troops, and next by fresh German troops being moved to their new points.

There are indications that fresh German troops have arrived in the Balkans and are heading for Greece. These reports say that they are equipped with tropical uniforms. This is quite natural if we remember that both German and Allied troops fought in tropical kit in Crete. There is no reason to believe that these new German troops will stay in Greece if nothing happens. Two years ago the Germans after training their Afrika Korps in Vienna hothouses sent them to the South of Italy to be acclimatized there. In the present circumstances, with Italian morale being what it is, it is hardly likely that the Germans would care to train their troops in the South of Italy, although it is quite possible that these troops after their training in Greece may well be wanted to help the Italians against an Allied invasion.

There are other reasons as well which necessitate the presence of fresh German troops in Greece. As the danger to the Italian mainland increases, Mussolini is eager to draw some of his men, if not all his armies abroad, back to Italy. It looks as if the Italians are beginning to withdraw some of their troops from Greece, and these will have to be replaced by German troops and perhaps by Bulgarian troops also.

PANICKY BALKANS

It takes very little now to create a panic in the Balkans. After the Adana visit there was a panic in Bulgaria and Rumania. Hardly had that settled down when the presence of General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson in Ankara was the sign for another wave of panic. This has just died down. Now we hear that the Allied troops in Cyprus have completed large-scale exercises and that these troops were ready not only for defence but also for attack. This must have created another wave of panic.

The Balkan people live under an accumulating fear of what may happen to them. Some time ago a report reached Turkey from Bucharest. It described the Russian break through at Stalingrad and in the great Don elbow last November. Panic was so great in Bucharest and in the larger towns that although hundreds of miles away, the Russians were thought to be at the gates of Bucharest and everybody who had any valuable hastened to hide them underground.

At the same time, the populations of all these countries, although they have suffered very little from air raids, have been obliged for nearly two years now to comply with the most rigorous blackout regulations. They are all awaiting an unknown terror. To complete their wretched images conjured from imagination, the German news agencies give them long accounts of R.A.F. raids on the occupied territories which they withhold from the German people. Thus the news reports which are meant to show how wretched and cruel the R.A.F. is—reports in which they do not forget to magnify the figures of alleged R.A.F. victims—in the Balkan States they do nothing but intensify the existing terror. Instead of bolstering up the morale of their allies, the Germans do nothing but diminish their staying power.

AGITATION IN BULGARIA

But to return to Bulgaria. The Rumanian newspaper *Universal* printed in Bucharest recently published a report from its correspondent in Sofia on "Communist Agitation in Bulgaria". (Of course any patriotic action in the occupied territories is "Communist" agitation.) The writer said that for some time Communist agitation in Bulgaria had increased, not only in the north but also in the south. He went on to explain how this propaganda was spread. It was spread by word of mouth and also by secretly printed leaflets. The Bulgarian people were urged to break away from the Axis and rally to Russia. Some acts of sabotage had also been committed.

The stage is set and the play is about to begin. It will be very interesting indeed and this year, who knows, it will be possible to kill the villain. Turkey constitutes a front seat. Turkey is settling down to watch the drama of this summer. It remains to be seen whether the Turkish spectators carried away in their enthusiasm will not also spring up and mount the stage to take an effective part in the kill.

SICILY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SICILY today finds itself in the spotlight owing to its important strategical position. Already exploited economically, the situation of the island forces it to bear the brunt of any attack on Italy. The location of its richest agricultural areas, its mineral resources, its few industries, its main lines of communication and a large part of its population in the coastal zone enhances its vulnerability.

From Tunisia the western angle of Sicily is about 150 miles distant, while from Tripoli the south-eastern angle of the island is just double this distance. On the east coast lies Augusta, one of the finest natural harbours in the Mediterranean and one of the principal war bases of Italy. Near the north-east angle of the island is Messina, train-ferry link with the Peninsula, while near the other extreme of the north coast lies Palermo on its panoramic gulf, capital and largest city of Sicily rivalling east-coast Catania as a business centre.

4,000,000 INHABITANTS

Over 4,000,000 people, roughly the population of Switzerland, about one-tenth of Italy's entire population, normally lives in Sicily and of these a third reside in the narrow coastal fringe that includes not only the larger towns but almost all the more fertile agricultural land. Only on the south is this belt barren and sparsely populated. Elsewhere it comprises the plantations of lemons, oranges and mandarins, vines, olives, almonds and vegetables, irrigated from wells and perennial streams, that are the island's principal agricultural wealth.

Sicily was the leading exporter of lemons, and among European exporters was second only to Spain for oranges. Its Marsala wine, exported from the western part of the island, was already renowned in Nelson's time.

In the interior wheat occupies over half the sown land and, with poor grazing, dominates the agricultural landscape. Inadequate and uncertain rainfall and poor soils, however, mean low yields and Sicily must normally import wheat while the thinness of the grazing means that it possesses fewer cattle per unit of agricultural area than any other section of Italy.

SCANTY FUEL RESOURCES

Amongst mineral resources sulphur easily takes the first place. Production of asphalt, now used as a minor source of oil to help eke out Italy's scanty fuel sources, has been stimulated by the war.

Known to many only as a tourist land, rich in picturesque landscapes and classical antiquity, Sicily suffered from a social malaise that was still far from being remedied when Italy entered the war. Over half the population was directly dependent on agriculture but less than one per cent of the agricultural holdings comprised over a third of the total area of holdings. To the dominance of the large estates, many of them held by absentee landowners, had to be added backward communications, scarcity of water, prevalence of malaria, the illiteracy of about two-fifths of the population and, until recently, the menace of gangsterism. Many Sicilians found a way of escape only by emigration, formerly for the most part to the United States, Argentina, Brazil and Tunisia.

Under Axis domination the island has proved a convenient source of sulphur and of fruit, two considerable items in the supplies provided by Italy to Germany. The island has, in short, been treated as a lemon to be squeezed.

WAR OF NERVES IN SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

By NOEL MONKS

OF all the world's battlefronts the Pacific war zone is the hardest to understand. Few people realize what is going on there. Let me try to explain things.

The greatest "war of nerves" since pre-Munich days is being waged just now in the South-West Pacific. The latest news is that the Japs have built a great base at Wewak, on the northern coast of New Guinea, that another "threat" to Port Moresby is under way.

A fairly clear picture of what is going on and what is likely to go on in the South-West Pacific can be put together. At the moment the nearest Jap base of any magnitude to Australia is Rabaul, 1,000 miles north-east of Townsville. In the north-west the Japs have a minor base at Koepang, 510 miles from Darwin. Wewak, in New Guinea, where the Japs are said to be mustering strength, is nearly 700 miles from the Australian coast.

HIGHLY PERFECTED SYSTEM OF AIR RECONNAISSANCE

It would be impossible, therefore, for any large Japanese invasion fleet to approach the Australian coast without being seen at least 24 hours out. The highly perfected system of air reconnaissance conducted by the Royal Australian Air Force and the United States Air Corps ensures this. The nearest that a Jap invasion fleet has ever got to Australia was in the Coral Sea—800 miles out—nearly a year ago. It has never been disclosed whether it was Australia-bound or headed for Port Moresby in New Guinea. Navy and land-based American bombers accounted for it in grand style.

The Japs later tried to forge one missing link in their great strategic chains across the Pacific by an attack on Midway. The United States navy was ready—again with the aid of shore bombers—wiped out the invasion fleet. In between those two Jap invasion attempts, a strong land effort was made in New Guinea with the object of capturing Port Moresby. The situation was retrieved by Australia's General Blamey after the Japs had got to within 30 miles of their objective. With the help of some brilliant tough American junior generals and their troops, Blamey and his Australians pushed the Japs back over the mountains and into the sea at Buna. It is four months since the last Jap was flung out of Buna.

That the Japs would try to get back Buna—and the Owen Stanleys—is natural, and recent reports of big concentrations at Wewak, near Salamaua, far from being alarming must have been expected by the Allied Command. The other day General Blamey said, "The enemy have now been completely driven from Papua; in fact the main part of the force has been exterminated." Is it not natural, then, that the Japs should try to build up that force again as soon as possible? It would not necessarily constitute any new or direct threat to Australia.

PORT MORESBY: NOT ONE CHANCE IN A THOUSAND

If, on the other hand, Port Moresby were to fall to-morrow, then Australia would indeed be threatened. But there should not be one chance in a thousand of that happening. New Guinea is the only operational land "front" under General MacArthur's command, and if that cannot be regarded as "safe", then Australians would have every reason to become alarmed.

A lot of men and material have been poured into New Guinea. Two great Australian armies that went away to the Middle East three years ago ill-armed and unequipped, are now back in Australia. They were completely equipped by Britain, and they brought much of their equipment home with them though General Montgomery could ill spare it. They must number 100,000, and they have proved themselves to be as tough and gallant an army as any in the world. It might be said that 100,000 fully equipped men are a mere handful compared to the size of Australia. But not when you consider that there are only three parts of Australia that could offer any attraction to Japan as invasion points—Darwin (north-west), Freemantle (west) and Townsville (north-east).

AUSTRALIA'S SIZE, HER SALVATION

Australia's size has been her salvation. A Jap landing at Darwin would have the Nipponese still anything from 1,500 to 2,000 miles from the nearest city and industrial centre. Townsville, in Queensland, is 1,200 miles from Sydney; Freemantle, in Western Australia, is 2,000 miles from Melbourne.

American and Australian engineers and workmen have built at least 100 airfields at strategic points throughout Australia within the past year. That stands as a magnificent achievement, considering the nature of some of the country and lack of communications. I would like to see every one of those airfields packed with aircraft bombers, torpedo carriers, fighters.—*The Daily Mail.*

"NEW ORDER" AT WORK

By W. N. EWER

THE Japanese, imitative as always, are setting up quislings in countries they have overrun. In Java there is a "movement for the mobilisation of the people's strength" with an executive of four Javanese. They are to be "assisted" in their work by a board of 20 Japanese "advisers".

Similarly in the Philippines a "Government" of four Filipinos works under the strict supervision of "the office of Japanese military administration", and its chief activities are devoted to transferring control of the economic life of the island into the hands of big Japanese capitalist groups. The Philippines, Netherlands East Indies, Malaya, French Indo-China and occupied China are now all under the control of the "Greater East Asia Ministry". And so, significantly, the Japanese legations in Bangkok and Hsinking are now under the control of this new ministry instead of as formerly under the Foreign Office.

And as a further step towards the completion of Japanese domination, Korea, Formosa and Sakhalin, which used to be controlled by the "Overseas Ministry", are now placed directly under the Ministry of the Interior. They are counted as an integral part of Japan itself.

Step by step these administrative changes show the character of the "New Order" which Japan is trying to set up in East Asia and in the Pacific—a system of centralised Japanese domination politically controlled by the army junta in Tokyo and economically exploited for the benefit of big Japanese capitalists. It all began with the slogan "Asia for the Asiatics". Even those who once responded to that suave appeal are beginning to understand that the meaning was "Asia for the Japanese ruling cliques".

AMERICAN OFFENSIVE MOVES IN PACIFIC

Members of the Pacific War Council came away apparently well pleased from the meeting at which Roosevelt and Churchill reviewed the whole war in its relation to the Japanese front. The Press of the Dominions, like that of the United States, is recording general satisfaction with the Prime Minister's assurance that British forces will take their full share 'in an unceasing and relentless wagging of war against Japan.' What an American journal calls the 'present strategy of beating Hitler first' is approved by the main body of public opinion.

Concentration of a decisive force on a front where alone a vital decision can be obtained has been recognised as the right course, and it is realised that the overthrow of Nazism is an indispensable condition of deliverance of the world from Japanese savagery.

FROM SOLOMONS TO TIMOR SEA

While the main assault on Germany proceeds, the United Nations are by no means debarred from effective action on the Pacific fronts. The major part of the American forces, Mr. Churchill remarked, is now deployed there. For some time past, they have been on the offensive from the Solomon Islands and the Timor Sea in the far south across vast ocean spaces to the Aleutian Islands chain between Alaska and Kamchatka.

The offensive has not developed to more than the recapture of important air bases and harbours but the Japanese have proved unable to stop it. It has inflicted on them heavy losses in aircraft and shipping. Hitherto we have had no definite information of the extent to which the main Japanese fleet was drawn into these operations, but Tokyo's announcement that Admiral Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, was killed in a plane "while directing battle operations" during April suggests naval movements on a large scale.

FORWARD MOVEMENTS

Throughout March and April, the Americans were continually attacking bases seized by Japan in the Aleutians. Kiska, which has a good harbour and on which the Japanese built a fighter airfield, was bombed nearly 300 times. This month American forces landed on Attu which is a little further west. The Japanese fleet and air force have failed to make any effective intervention. It appears that the defenders cannot hold out much longer. When Kiska also is taken, American air power will be established on the chain of bases stretching to Japan and within 2,000 miles of the nearest point. Another forward movement to the Kurile Islands would bring American bombers within range of the Japanese homeland. Then the Allies might begin the "process so necessary and desirable of laying cities and other munition centres of Japanese in ashes."

—*Daily Telegraph.*

AIR POWER'S PART IN AID TO RUSSIA

"*We* must do everything in our power that is sensible and practicable to take more of the weight off Russia in 1943." In the opinion of the Prime Minister that is the major task of the moment, writes the *Sunday Times* air correspondent.

A large share in affording that relief can be taken by Allied air power in close accord with other arms. Now that lessons of air war over Tunisia can be reviewed against the background of the whole North African campaign and the bombing of Germany which supported it, a set of valuable propositions can be seen to emerge.

The bearing of air power on coming events is implicit in them. Three major points stand out.

They are: one, strategic. Concerted bombing of industry and communications directly weaken enemy at the front and isolates the battlefield.

Two, tactical. Air mastery over a battlefield can dominate armies, first, by denying the enemy air support or reconnaissance and then employing a pattern of bombing and close assault to smash supplies, troops and armour.

Three, technical. Decisive results in strategic and tactical fields can be attained only by first-class material.

ROUND THE CLOCK

Effective aid can be given to Russia by still more concentration on the closely knit British-American 24-hour air offensive against the Reich and by care in the selection of the next field for the employment of the veteran African armies and air forces. Destruction of replacements by strategic bombing fits neatly with the process of attrition which has applied on battlefields in Russia and elsewhere. In this the enemy plays into our hands through his inability to indulge in strategic bombing and his belief in binding air units to army formations.

German military theory has always been that of concentration of ground forces by one single task in an attack. So army-minded is the Luftwaffe that its units are divided up into "penny packets" and each is allocated to a particular army corps—instead of wielding the whole with all its weight and inherent power wherever it may be needed most.

The consequence is that on the Russian front there are some 2,500,000 Axis troops supported by about 2,000 aircraft of which 300 are Italian. These aircraft are outnumbered by the Red Air Fleet whose magnificent new 385 miles per hour Laag-5 fighter with 1,600 horse power engine appears to be achieving technical superiority as well.

In the Mediterranean area, the Axis has some 2,500 aircraft, 1,000 of them being German. Here again they are outnumbered and outfought. The Luftwaffe now appears to be packing Sicily's 20 odd aerodromes and is obviously expecting attack in that quarter. The more enemy aircraft we can draw off into Sicily, Sardinia and the toe of Italy, the greater chance we shall be giving to Russia to achieve and maintain the requisite air superiority in the east.

There can be no doubt that Allied air power from Africa can open Sicily for invasion if that should be a part of the Allied plan and that the Germans will be throwing good aircraft away in attempting to defend it —as they are certainly committed to do.

TWO ESSENTIALS

In these ways Allied air superiority in the west and in the Mediterranean can give powerful aid to Russia immediately in two essentials. There is, first, the air offensive over Germany by British and American forces. Estimates of the scale of devastation (not including such exceptional coups as the breaching of dams) suggest that each bomber wreaks a destruction equivalent to about ten times the effort put into its production and operation. The second essential is to draw off and destroy every German aeroplane possible. Germany can spare only some 150 bombers in the west to-day and is forced to use FW-190 fighters as night bombers.

German air power is breaking. The Mediterranean area provides a favourable site to put on the screw because enemy communications are long. Allied air supremacy is established and under its cover, sea and land forces can compel the enemy to fight and expend his substance.

If the German air support can be thinned on the Russian front, some of the millions of Axis troops operating there will be reduced to relative impotence. Air is thus the determining factor and in the Mediterranean the Allied air strength is dominant. We can look for great results.

German Production Going Down

In a startling article on German production, the Swiss paper *Weltwoches* says:

"Planned estimates of German factories are seldom fulfilled. Often they scarcely reach 50 per cent, the average being about 70 per cent. This is despite the fact that production figures for this year are fixed considerably lower than for the last year.

"If the reasons for this fall in production are examined the transport crisis will always be seen to be the most striking factor. The development of transport was unable to keep step with the tremendous extension of Germany's 'economic space.' Air raids on important railway lines, especially junctions, create avalanches of confusion and loss of time.

"Germany is no longer conducting the war 'normally' as it was originally planned. Improvisations, interim solutions and special measures which should have been avoided at all costs are now the rule. War cannot be planned coolly any longer, but it is being conducted with a desperate defensive determination which does not even hesitate to call on dangerous forces and is prepared to sacrifice the past and the present to an uncertain future."

A HISTORIC DECLARATION

WAR AND PEACE AIMS OF THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN JOINT ROOSEVELT—CHURCHILL STATEMENT

I

Resolution of Allied Conference in London on June 5, 1941 :—

The Government of Great Britain and the Governments in Ireland and Canada, the Government of Belgium, the Provisional Czecho-Slovak Government, the Governments of Greece, Luxemberge, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia and representatives of General de Gaulle, Leader of the Free French-men, engaged together in the fight against oppression, are resolved, firstly, that they will continue the struggle against German or Italian aggression until victory is won and they will mutually assist each other in their struggle to the utmost of their respective capacities. Secondly, that there can be no settlement; peace and prosperity so long as free peoples are coerced by violence into submission to domination by Germany or her associates, or live under the threat of such coercion. Thirdly, that the only true basis of enduring peace is the willing cooperation of free peoples in a world in which, relieved of the menace of aggression, all may enjoy economic and social security and that it is their intention to work together and with other free peoples both in war and peace to this end."

II

The joint declaration runs as follows:—

The President of the United States and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

First their countries seek no aggrandisement, territorial or other.

Second they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned.

Third they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

Fourth they will endeavour, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access on equal terms to trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity.

Fifth they desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field, with the object of securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security.

Sixth after the final destruction of Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries and which will afford assurance that all men in all lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.

Seventh such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance.

Eighth they believe that all nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armament.

III

Mr. CHURCHILL'S APPEAL

The primary objects of the meeting between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill was to give the conquered countries the hope and the conviction that their sufferings and their resistances would not be in vain.

" The tunnel may be dark and long but at the end there is light." Addressing the oppressed nations Mr. Churchill said:—

" Do not despair, brave Norwegians: your land shall be cleansed not only from the invader but from the filthy Quisling who are his tools. Be sure of yourselves, Czechs: your independence shall be restored. Poles, the heroism of your people standing up to the cruel oppressors, the courage of your soldiers, sailors and airmen shall not be forgotten. Your country shall live again and resume its rightful path in the new organization of Europe. Lift up your heads, gallant Frenchmen. Not all the infamies of Darlan and Laval shall stand between you and the restoration of your birthright. The tough, stout-hearted Dutch, Belgians and Luxembourgers, the tormented, mishandled and shamefully cast-away peoples of Yugoslavia, glorious Greece now subjected to the crowning insult of the rule of the Italian jackanapes, yield not an inch. Keep your souls clean from all contact with the Nazis. Make them feel even in their fleeting hour of triumph that they are the moral outcastes of mankind.

" Help is coming. Mighty forces are arming in your behalf. Have faith. Have hope. Deliverance is sure. There is a signal which we have flashed across the waters and if it reaches the hearts of those to whom it is sent, they will endure with fortitude and tenacity their present misfortunes in the sure faith that they too are still serving the common cause and their efforts will not be in vain. You will perhaps have noticed that the President of the United States and the British representatives in what is aptly called the Atlantic Charter have jointly pledged their countries to the final destruction of Nazi tyranny.

" That is the solemn, grave undertaking. It must be made good. It will be made good. And, of course, many practical arrangements to fulfil that purpose have been, and are being organized and set in motion."

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

3RD JUNE.—It was revealed that as a result of R.A.F. raids on German industrial centres, German weapon production was down by a third.

4TH JUNE.—There were a number of casualties including some people killed when enemy aircraft raided a south-east coast town.

Another invasion warning to the people of France was broadcast by the B.B.C.

5TH JUNE.—Mr. Churchill arrived back in London. Mr. Churchill flew from the United States to Gibraltar to visit General Eisenhower at Algiers. He addressed 3,000 soldiers of the Anglo-American armies in Tunisia.

6TH JUNE.—Twelve German planes raided a town on the south-east coast of England, one of which was destroyed.

8TH JUNE.—Frank German admissions that an Allied invasion of the Channel Coast might be successful were made in what was described by the Berlin correspondent of the *Stockholm Tidningen* as the German army " blueprint."

In a statement in the House of Commons, Mr. Churchill reaffirmed that complete accord had been reached in Washington during his recent talks with President Roosevelt.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

3RD JUNE.—It was announced that a German submarine was destroyed in the Atlantic and 40 members of the crew were captured.

It was revealed that a life-boat containing 19 survivors, including women and children of a Norwegian ship torpedoed in the Mid-Atlantic was rescued by a Royal Navy tender.

4TH JUNE.—President Roosevelt declared at a Press conference that understanding and accord between himself and Stalin were excellent.

America's "Beveridge Plan" Social Security Bill was introduced jointly to the House and the Senate. It was hailed by organized Labour as going a long way towards solving the United States post-war unemployment problems.

Mr. Stimson, War Secretary, announced that at least 17,083 American soldiers had been taken prisoner in the war. Of these, the Japanese held 11,307, Germany 3,312 and Itlay 2,464. He added that the figures were incomplete.

5TH JUNE.—Col. Knox, Navy Secretary, stated: "The lull in submarine merchant sinkings may be a prelude to an all-out attack in June."

6TH JUNE.—An Axis submarine was sunk in the Atlantic by United States Navy Patrol bombers.

8TH JUNE.—The United States Senate approved 23,637 million dollars, naval appropriations bill of which 4,583 million dollars was for construction of 29,142 aeroplanes. The bill also provided for 9,118 million dollars for construction of surface vessels.

President Roosevelt stated that there was evidence the Axis powers were making significant preparations to use gas.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

4TH JUNE.—It was revealed that in four recent R.A.F. attacks in the Buthidaung area, more than 100 troops were killed. Buthidaung waterfront was also bombed. River craft on the Mayu river was attacked.

5TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. bombed storage warehouses at Akyab.

6TH JUNE.—Enemy warehouses and railroad installations were attacked at Alon in Burma. Buthidaung was bombed.

7TH JUNE.—The R.A.F. attacked enemy objectives in the Kalemyo area. Targets in Mandalay were heavily bombed by American air force.

It was revealed that the total number of civilian casualties in all Japanese air raids on India was 1,694.

8TH JUNE.—According to the *Daily Mail's* Military correspondent: "Brigadier Wingate's foray into Burma upset Japanese planes for penetrating Indian territory, while India has been left in comparative peace to train men and build up supplies for the future."

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

3RD JUNE.—Allied aircraft bombed the Italian island of St. Antioco and Pantelleria. An enemy convoy was engaged off Cape Spartivento.

The *Daily Express* correspondent wrote: "Axis prisoners are still pouring in. A long blue grey line of them is streaming westwards across North Africa—266,000 disabled defeated, tired individuals called prisoners of war."

It was officially announced that 555 abandoned Axis air craft had been found in Tunis, Bizerta and Cape Monareas. Of these, 433 were German and 125 Italian.

Mr. E. Stettinius, United States Lend-lease Administrator, said that a cheque of a further 10 million dollars was received from General Giraud as part payment for Lend-Lease supplies sent to French North Africa.

It was announced that French leaders meeting in Algiers had settled their differences and had formed a Committee of National Liberation which, when the invasion came, would take over the administration in France. It was further announced that General Catroux would take the place of M. Peyrouten. The de Gaulle-Giraud talks were resumed.

4TH JUNE.—Pantelleria was again bombed. It was announced that occupation of that island was imminent.

It was reported that Mussolini had called up civilian home guards in addition to regular troops.

5TH JUNE.—Pantelleria was again raided. Taranto, the Italian naval base in southern Italy, was bombed. Liberators attacked Grottalglie airfield in southern Italy.

6TH JUNE.—Flying Fortresses attacked Spezia in north-west Italy. Shipping was attacked at Ponte Romano and lightning attacks were made on the airfields in Sardinia.

Two enemy sailing vessels were destroyed in the harbour at Stampalia.

7TH JUNE.—The Royal Air Force pounded Pantelleria. Two enemy aircraft were shot down in Eastern Mediterranean.

It was revealed that the Allies had massed five major armies along the 3,000 miles of African coast line to strike across the Mediterranean and knock Italy out of the war. British and American papers said that an invasion of Europe was imminent—"the last and bloodiest phase of the war in Europe".

8TH JUNE.—Pantelleria was again bombed by North-West African air forces.

9TH JUNE.—Scores of German fighters swept over Pantellaria, trying to stem the day and night waves of Allied aircraft.

Enemy bases in southern Sardinia were bombed. There was an Allied air attack on Cabronia.

Allied pamphlets were dropped on Pantelleria calling for surrender.

It was authoritativey stated in London that altogether 291,000 Axis prisoners were taken in Tunisia. The total number of Axis prisioners and killed was estimated to be 341,000.

Eleven Italian soldiers were assassinated by patriots in Marseilles.

Reuters military correspondent said that a new offensive had already begun in the Mediterranean. "All signs indicate the approach of zero hour."

* * * * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

3RD JUNE.—It was revealed that the German planes to strike on the Russian front in May were foiled by the terrific Russian offensive in the first two weeks of that month.

The Soviet air force raided Karacher and Krasny-Bor. Five hundred German aircraft raided Krusk. The Red Army smashed a big German thrust in the Kalinin Province.

4TH JUNE.—Fierce air battles took place on the Kuban front. Soviet aircraft raided the railway junction of Kiev and Roslavl. Five hundred German war-planes tried to wipe out Kursk, 162 of which were brought down. Twenty-three German planes were shot down in the Kuban area.

5TH JUNE.—A German thrust to recapture Velikie Luki was hurled back. Long-range Soviet aircraft raided Orel railway junction.

6TH JUNE.—German forces retreated south of Izyum. A German military train was derailed in the Ukrain by guerillas.

7TH JUNE.—Reuter's special correspondent stated that the Germans had lost 5,000 aircraft in the air war in Russia. The Red Army repulsed a new German counter-attack in Sevsk area.

8TH JUNE.—Col. Vasiliev, in a broadcast from Moscow, stated: "The whole front is in a state of tension from the Barents Sea to Novorossisk."

Fresh German attempts to force a crossing of the Donetz in the area of Balakleya were smashed. The Red air force raided the railway centre of Unecha. Munition dumps were set on fire.

9TH JUNE.—According to a report from Ankara, Hitler had massed 70 divisions (about one million men) for a new bid to capture Moscow.

* * * * *

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

4TH JUNE.—A military revolution triumphed in Argentina and General Arturo Rawson, a cavalry officer, was Chief of a new Provisional Government. President Ramon Castillo fled to Uruguay. Revolutionary forces in the Argentine occupied Government House in Buenos Aires.

Commenting on the resolution, Col. Knox, U.S. Navy Secretary, said: "It looks as if the pro-Axis Administration there has been unhorsed."

7TH JUNE.—The President of the new Argentine Government, General Rawson, resigned andu his post was taken over by his War Minister, General Ramirez. It was suggested that the split in the new Argentine Government was on the question whether Argentine should break with the Axis or not.

It was announced that the Chilean Government had resigned.

8TH JUNE.—General Ramirez, President of the new Argentine Government, stated that Argentine would remain neutral.

A new Chilean Government was formed and sworn in before President Rios.

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

3RD JUNE.—Allied aircraft made a series of small-scale operations on occupied territory, shooting up 11 locomotives in ten areas and damaging one armed trawler and damaging three others.

The French statesman, M. Edouard Herriot, was deported to Germany.

It was disclosed that villas and hotels facing the sea along the coast of Dunkirk, Ostend and other French and Belgian resorts had been made into concrete forts.

5TH JUNE.—In a broadcast, M. Laval said: "I have decided to call up the whole 1942 class without a single exception . . . A quarter million French workers have to leave for Germany between April 1 and July 1."

9TH JUNE.—Vichy Government broke off commercial relations with Chile.

* * * * *

THE FAR EAST

3RD JUNE.—In a statement about the Washington talks between Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt, Mr. John Curtin, the Australian Prime Minister, said: "The discussions of the last three months have now brought to Australia one of the greatest successes of the War."

General Blamey, Commander of the Allied land forces in the south-west Pacific, said: "While the position of Allied nations has definitely improved, the Japanese are going to make it most difficult for us."

Allied heavy bombers inflicted serious damage on Japanese airfields in the Wewak area. Sixteen Japanese planes raided Bulldog area in New Guinea. Cape Gloucester (New Britain) airfield and Hollandi (Dutch New Guinea) were raided by Allied planes.

Chinese forces captured Changyang and Chihkang. The main body of the Chinese forces swept forward towards Ichang.

4TH JUNE.—Rear-Admiral Harry Yarnell, the former Commander-in-Chief of United States Asiatic Fleet, said: "There is a possibility that the Chinese Nationalist Government may collapse unless effective aid is forthcoming soon."

Chinese forces broke into Itu, an important Yangtse town. Chinese planes sank troop-laden barges, killing about 1,500 Japanese, along the stretch of the Yangtse, between Ichang and Itu.

It was revealed that troops of the Nanking Puppet Government helped the Chinese by giving away valuable information.

5TH JUNE.—Chinese troops entered Itu on the western Hupeh front. Over 2,000 Japanese were annihilated. The Chinese occupied Kungan and launched an attack on Ichang. Ichang was in flames.

6TH JUNE.—Reuter's Far Eastern Observer wrote: "The resounding defeat suffered by the Japanese in Central China during the past weeks, marks the opening of a new phase in China's six-year struggle with Japan." For the first time, Chinese troops fought under a powerful air umbrella.

General Stilwell said: "We shall have more and more reason to be proud of our great ally, China."

American airmen sank a Japanese destroyer, set fire to a corvette and a cargo ship and shot down 15 enemy planes in the Bougainville area in the Solomons.

Five attacks were carried out against Japanese installations at Kiska.

7TH JUNE.—American aircraft attacked Japanese positions on Choiseul island, north of the New Georgia group.

The Tokyo radio reported that Japanese engineers were attempting to refloat *Repulse* which was sunk along with *Prince of Wales* off Malaya in December 1941.

The Chinese forces occupied several strategic points outside Ouchihkou. According to *New York Times*, more U.S. planes were on their way to China. Japanese remnants in Itu suffered severe casualties.

Admiral Numitz, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said: "The Japanese are now on the defensive in the Pacific. . . We must do everything in our power to aid China, because we must use bases in China to attack Japan."

Allied planes raided Koepang and Penfoei airfield in Dutch Timor.

8TH JUNE.—The Japanese were defeated in their attempt to reach Chungking. Chinese units mopped up isolated Japanese detachments along the south bank of Yangtse river.

9TH JUNE.—A small Japanese convoy was attacked off Kavieng in the Bismarck Sea.

INDIRECT FERTILISERS

These are not used directly as food by plants; but they act on other substances in the soil which cannot be absorbed by plants and convert them into forms available to plants. Some of them loosen the soil, and sometimes disinfect the soil.

1. *Lime* (Calcium oxide).—This is the most common indirect fertiliser. Though it forms a constituent of plant-food, most soils contain enough of it to be used as food by plants. But it is as an indirect fertiliser that lime is usually added to the soil. In its caustic state it is one of the most powerful agents for effecting the decomposition of organic matter in the soil. It converts an acid soil into an alkaline one, and also helps to loosen heavy clay soil. 8–12 oz. can be applied per square yard.

2. *Salt* (Sodium chloride).—As an indirect fertiliser it liberates potash and other plant-food in the soil.

3. *Chalk* (Carbonate of lime) has a beneficial effect on light sandy soils, giving them the power of retaining soluble substances.

4. *Gypsum* (Calcium sulphate).—It reduces the alkalinity of soils. It also liberates potash in the soil, and makes it available for plants. It is best to apply gypsum to the soil during rainy season, at the rate of about 2 3 oz. per square yard.

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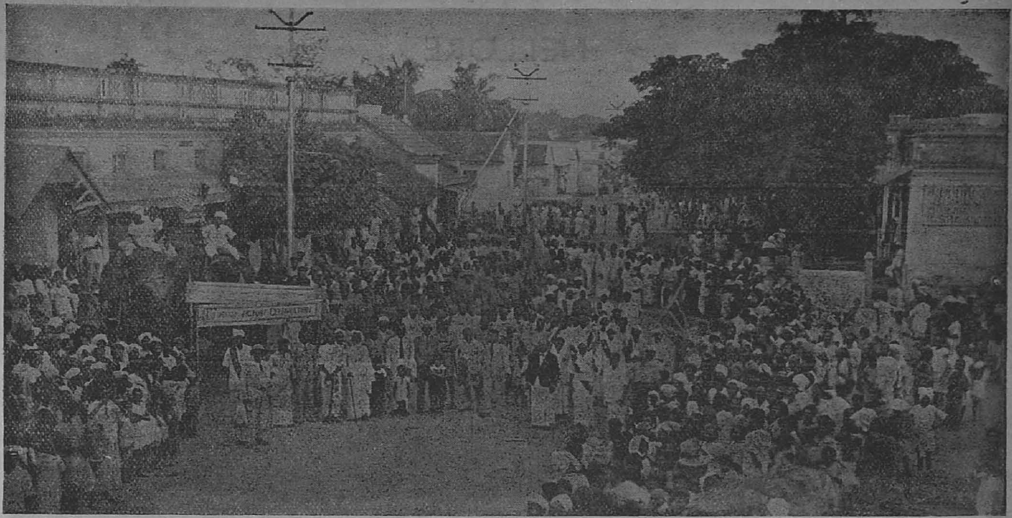


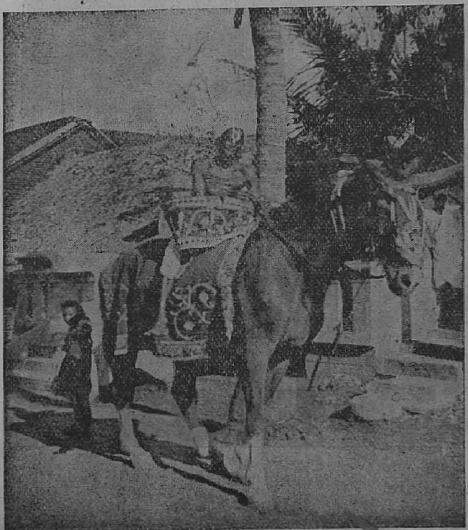
PALNI

Top :—An elephant procession was taken out at Palni on Tunisia Day.

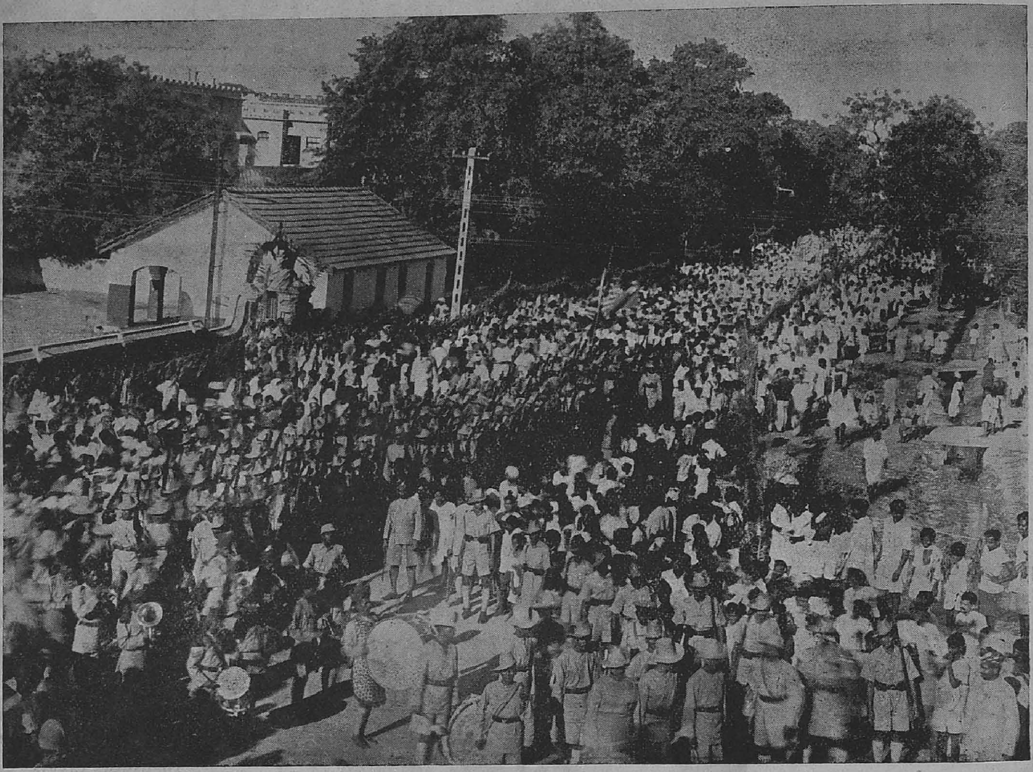
Sriperumbudur

Right :—School boys had a terrific time at Sriperumbudur celebrating the Tunisian Victory.

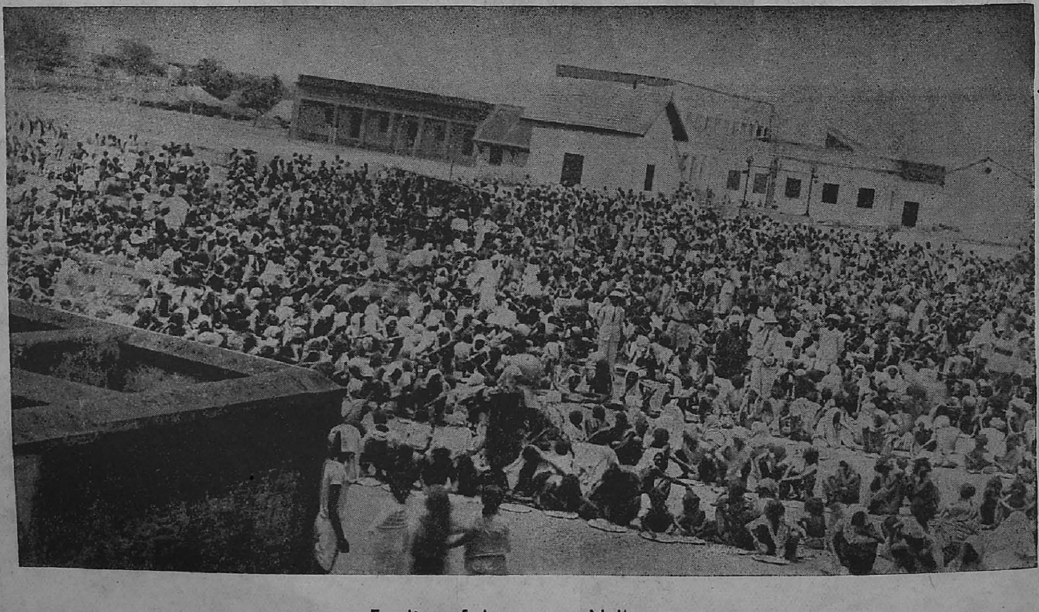
Bottom :—Two interesting snapshots taken at Sriperumbudur.



NELLORE

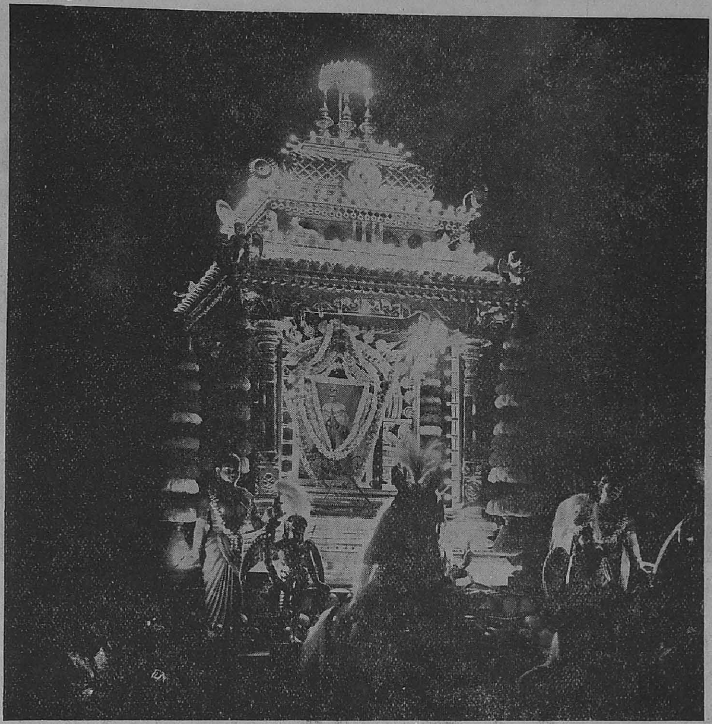


A view of the Tunisian Victory Day procession.



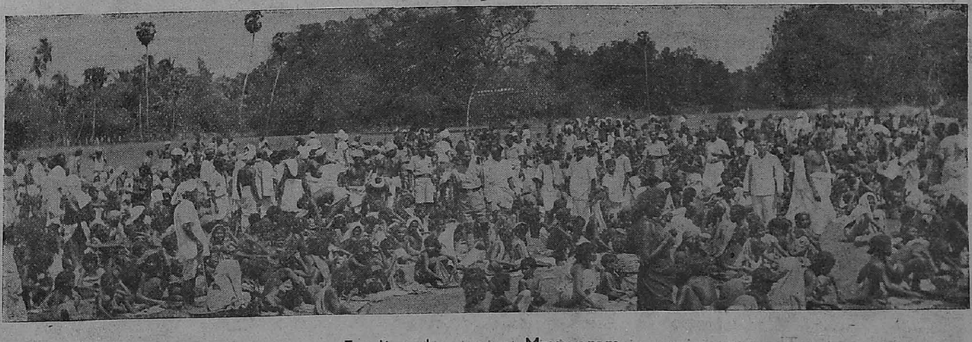
Feeding of the poor at Nellore.

MAYAVARAM



A portrait of His Majesty the King-Emperor was carried in procession in an electrically-lit silver chariot

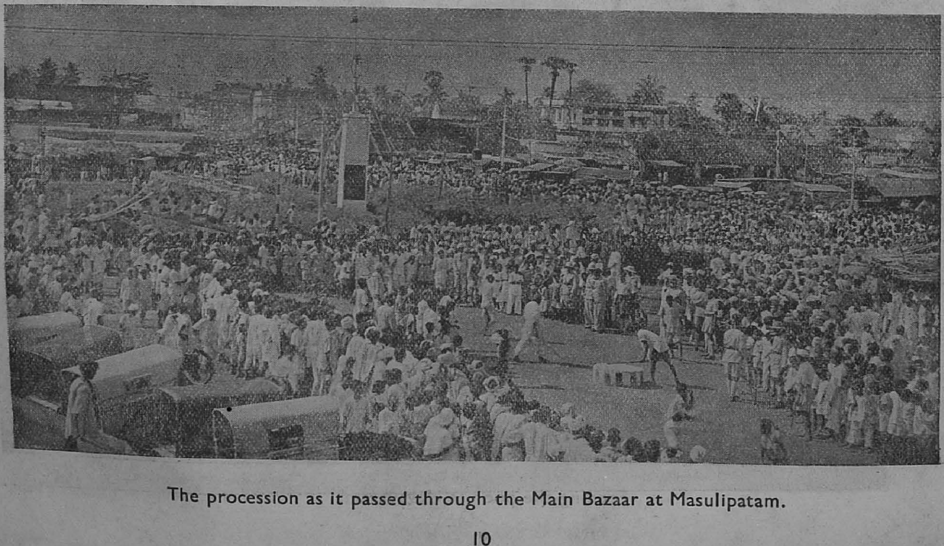
Distribution of clothes to the families of soldiers on active service.



Feeding the poor at Mayavaram.

MASULIPATAM

The procession before the start.



The procession as it passed through the Main Bazaar at Masulipatam.

MASULIPATAM

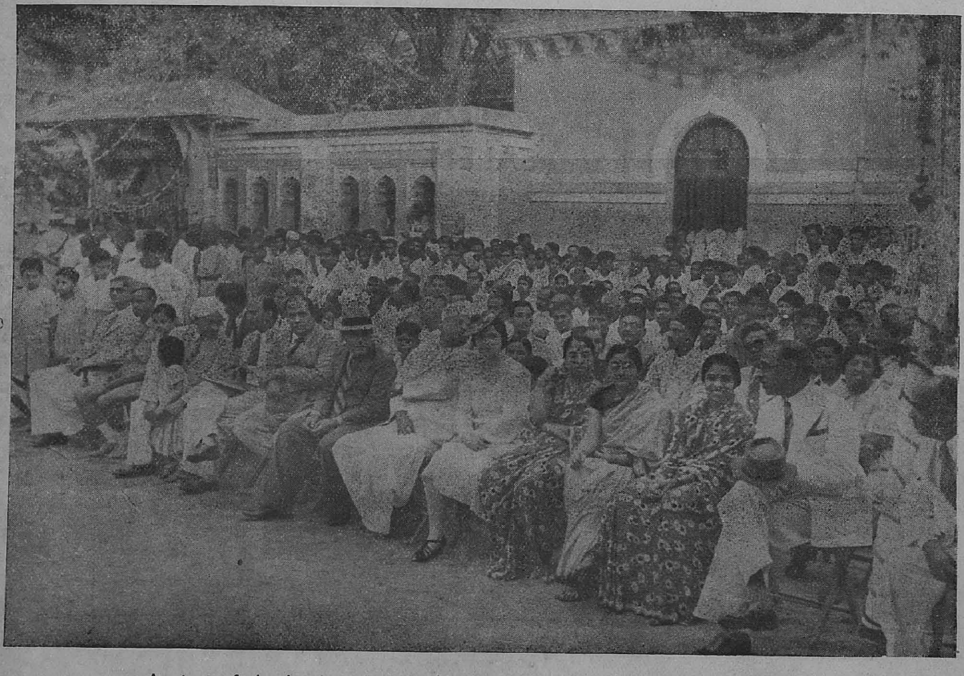
Feeding the Poor.

SALEM

The saluting base.

TRICHINOPOLY

The March-past.

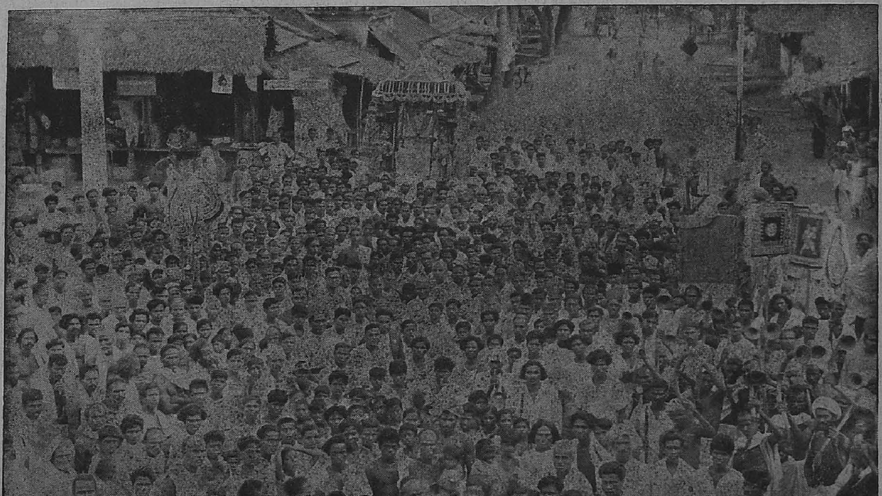


A view of the large gathering which witnessed the Victory celebrations.

KUMBAKONAM

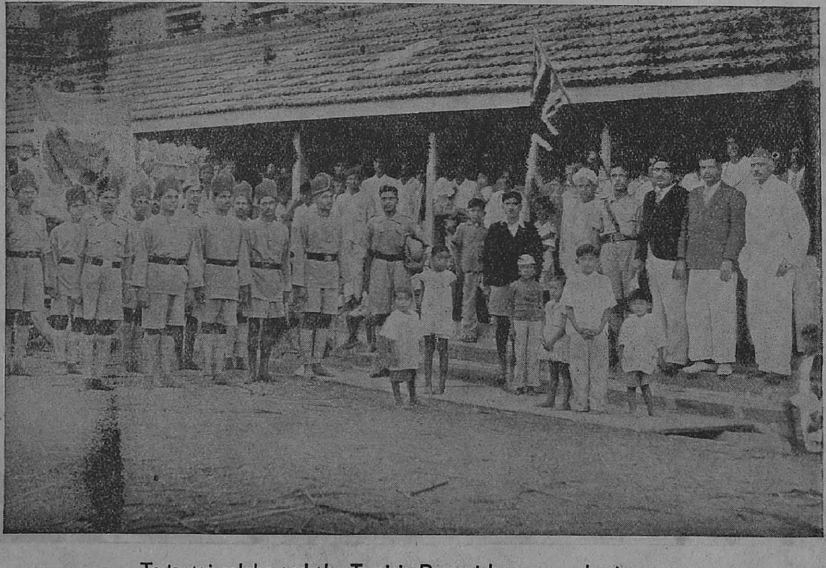
The procession.

PATTUKOTTAI



Victory Day.

War workers at Tadpatri explained to the public the significance of the Tunisian Victory.



Tadpatri celebrated the Tunisia Day with great enthusiasm.

VILLUPURAM

A spectacular poster procession on Tunisia Day.

. . . And some who DON'T rejoice!

VON ARNIM after his second night in captivity leaves North Africa by plane.—Accompanied by a British Officer, General von Arnim walks across the tarmac to the plane.

Final Phase of the Tunisian Campaign.—A huge crowd of German and Italian prisoners, 20,000 strong, at the Prisoner of War Camp at Grombia.

GOVT. PRESS, MADRAS.